FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq's surprise offensive against the Majnun Island positions was "completely crushed" with "heavy" Iraqi personnel and equipment losses, according to IRNA. However, the Iraqi Air Force carried out another attack on Gulf shipping, hitting a "large maritime target" on 28 January, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. Despite its earlier report that Iran was responsible for the 27 January attack on a Greek tanker near Ras Tanura, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* said that Iraq is now thought to have fired the missile, using one of its new Mirage EQ5 aircraft.

Libya

The U.S. 6th Fleet conducted "provocative" air and sea maneuvers, originating from Egyptian territorial waters, against Libya on 27 and 28 January, Voice of the Greater Arab Homelandradio maintained. Meanwhile, a Vietnamese delegation led by SRV Council of Ministers Vice Chairman General Vo Nguyen Giap arrived in Tripoli, according to the radio.

Jordan

Information Minister Layla Sharaf resigned on 28 January, Radio Monte Carlo reported, because of the government's "unclear" information policy and freedom of expression restrictions. A royal decree accepted Sharaf's resignation effective immediately, Amman radio noted.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Rashid Karami arrived in Damascus on 29 January where he was received by the Syrian prime minister and foreign minister, Beirut radio announced.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan denied as "baseless" DRA allegations that the Pakistani Armed Forces engaged in cross-border shelling of the Barikowt area on 19-21 January, Karachi radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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AL-MUSTAQBAL Interviews Arab League's Klibi

JN281056 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 26 Jan 85 pp 18-24

['Abd al-Karim Abu al-Nasr dispatch]

[Excerpts] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has opened all the files to *AL-MUSTAQBAL* on the topical issues that preoccupy officials and citizens in this region, spoken about these issues frankly and clearly, and has revealed important matters for the first time. Chedli Klibi knows everything about the Arab state of affairs. His position and responsibilities allow him to be present in all the region's disputes, issues, and problems. He deals with them and holds meetings on them. These issues include the Arab summit, the Maghreb summit, Egypt's return to the Arab fold, the stand of the United States and the EEC on the conflict in the region, the USSR role, the issue of the Jewish Falasha emigration to Israel, the developments of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the Gulf war, the issue of Jerusalem, and the issue of adopting Arab resolutions by majority instead of by unanimity. It is not easy to wrest information and secrets from Chedli Klibi. By nature and in view of his post, he is inclined to be discreet, particularly when the question deals with a sensitive issue that may set off a crisis. In spite of all this, Klibi gave *AL-MUSTAQBAL* what he has not given any Arab newspaper for a long time. We held a lengthy and comprehensive interview with him at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis.

[Abu Al-Nasr] When will the 13th Arab summit convene and where? Why has it been postponed? Will it be an expanded summit or only a mini-summit? Will it be a summit on Egypt's return to the Arab fold or a summit to reach agreement on a new Arab initiative for settling the conflict with Israel? Can you give us a clear picture on this matter?

[Klibi] An Arab summit is supposed to convene every year in implementation of the agreement reached among leaders at the Baghdad summit. After the Arab League's transfer to Tunis, three Arab summits were regularly held. The mission of the Tunis summit, the 10th summit, was to entrench the pillars of joint Arab action in wake of the transfer of the Arab League.

Every Arab summit has its own mission of utmost importance. The Riyadh summit has a similar important mission. The summit is not merely a meeting, in spite of the fact that any meeting among the brothers is important. With respect to the Riyadh summit the trend has been that it must discuss two important issues: Bringing Arab interpretations on some executive points closer together, and consolidating Arab credibility represented in the Arab peace plan. There is a clear connection between these two issues and I would like to analyze these two points. Our friends in Europe, Africa, Asia, and even in the United States tell us: What do you want? We do not know exactly what the Arab stand is, and what the Arabs want so that we can support them and help in achieving a settlement that would take Arab wishes into consideration.

Very often, this logic shows great loyalty to the friendship with the Arab peoples, but sometimes it covers false stands. Our reply is that despite their differences over certain procedural points, the Arab states are principally in agreement on the substance. All the Arab states are committed to the Fes plan. We have not heard a single Arab state disagreeing with the plan that was approved by the Fes summit. Moreover, despite their occasional differences, we have not heard any of our Palestinian brothers disagreeing with this pan-Arab accord. We have not heard a single Palestinian leader dissociating himself from the Arab peace plan that was approved by the Fes summit.

The question now is: What must the Riyadh summit do with regard to this Arab unanimity?

The Riyadh summit is expected to prove to the world public that the Arab unanimity over the Arab peace plan still exists and that the different views sometimes expressed by certain Arab sides have nothing to do with the substance. They only reflect certain internal secondary issues. The Riyadh summit is expected to prove that these secondary differences have not affected the substance and Arab determination. This is the first thing expected from the Riyadh summit. The second thing, which is linked to the first, concerns these secondary differences which very often obstruct Arab progress toward the prosperity and comprehensive peace that preserves the dignity of our countries. The summit is called upon to tackle these secondary problems by either settling them finally and completely or, failing that, freezing them so that they will not disrupt or adversely affect joint Arab action.

These two substantive points await a clear and positive answer from the Riyadh summit. Naturally, the answer will not be an easy one. For as you know, the work to convene the summit has summoned great efforts from the member-states, especially the host country Saudi Arabia, as well as from the secretary general himself. These efforts, which have continued since the second Fes summit, sought to create the right atmosphere for the 13th summit so that it will respond to the two Arab demands: namely, guaranteeing the implementation of the Arab peace plan, and consolidating Arab ranks in order to strengthen the credibility of Arab willpower before friends and foes alike.

[Abu al-Nasr] However, how can we reach a strong unified Arab stand that will show the world that the Arabs are serious?

[Klibi] Arab states that have any sensitivities or misunderstandings should freeze them until the Arab nation has finally solved its two main problems: the old problem, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the new problem, the Iraq-Iran war.

[Abu al-Nasr] Is the atmosphere suitable for achieving that?

[Klibi] Because the atmosphere was not suitable it took us all this time to prepare for the 13th summit.

[Abu al-Nasr] There has been a great deal of talk that the summit will be held in January or February.

[Klibi] The summit now depends on the good offices being made by Saudi Arabia. I cannot now say how long this will take. I will also continue my efforts which, as you know, have been going on for several months now. When the situation is clarified, I will go to Riyadh for final consultations.

[Abu al-Nasr] Will this take a few months?

[Klibi] I think so.

[Abu Al-Nasr] Of course, the summit will be in Riyadh not in Tunis.

[Klibi] Yes, in Riyadh. You must have also noticed that I always talk about the Riyadh summit.

[Abu al-Nasr] Press reports say that some Arab officials, including King Husayn, are calling for a summit that need not necessarily be attended by all Arab states, and even in the absence of such an influential state as Syria. The purpose of such a summit is to approve Egypt's return to the Arab fold by a majority rather than a unanimous vote. We have learned that Saudi officials hold a different view. They do not want a summit that entrenches Arab divisions, or one without Syria, but a summit attended by all the Arab states with the exception of Egypt. This is what we have learned. So what is the true picture?

[Klibi] The Arab summit must be a comprehensive one. The Arab League cannot organize a summit that is not comprehensive. There may be certain individual efforts, but the League has nothing to do with them. The League organizes proper, comprehensive summits. Furthermore, is it possible to consider the subject of convincing the world, and especially the European states, of the Arab peace plan in the absence of Syria, one of the frontline states? I do not believe that this will be in the interest of joint Arab action. What is needed is to orchestrateall efforts through one channel and to begin the peace process on a firm basis in accordance with the Fes plan. The summit has been delayed due to various obstacles. However, we are very hopeful of creating the right Arab atmosphere for such action. At any rate, the next summit will discuss three main topics:

1. The Arab-Israeli conflict.

2. Joint Arab action.

3. Arab international relations.

As you can see these three topics call for a comprehensive summit to be attended by everyone so that we can establish Arab stands on strong, solid bases on all these topics.

[Abu al-Nasr] Could Egypt's return to the Arab fold be included under the second topic, which is joint Arab action?

[Klibi] The general secretariat has not officially received any request from an Arab state concerning this subject. However, it is the right of any state to raise any topic it wants. Egypt's return was raised during the Fes summit and it was agreed then not to make any decision on the subject.

[Abu al-Nasr] A topic that falls within your jurisdiction is beging raised urgently these days; it concerns the existence of an Arab trend callin for adoption of Arab decisions by a majority rather than unanimous vote. Is this possible; and what is your opinion on the subject?

[Klibi] This trend only exists in the news media. I can assure you that the Arab states have not so far brought up the subject with the League at any official level. The League charter has been under discussion by the member-states for more than 4 years. Meetings have been held by representatives of the member-states, but this subject has not been raised by any member-state.

[Abu al-Nasr] What about the efforts to convene a Maghreb summit? Will this summit convene soon or are there still some obstacles?

[Klibi] I held consultations with the parties concerned. While organizing this summit I am dutybound not to make any statements until success is achieved, with God's help. What I can say is that the expected meeting among the five Maghreb leaders is to organize relations among Maghreb countries not only with respect to urgent matters but also with respect to basic affairs on which the fate of that part of the Arab homeland depends. I believe that this summit will be the best way for containing the problems that exist here and there. I believe that the most important thing is to create an atmosphere for dialogue, to be followed by trust and cooperation among brothers. I believe that if it succeeds, the Maghreb summit will contribute to clearing Arab atmospheres, and will make it easier for the Riyadh summit to convene.

[Abu al-Nasr] Have all the obstacles to convening the Maghreb summit been removed?

[Klibi] What is important is that no Maghreb country has rejected it.

[Abu al-Nasr] Will this summit convene this month?

[Klibi] If this is God's wish.

[Abu al-Nasr] Libya and Syria have called for convening an Arab League Council emergency session to discuss the issue of the emigration of Ethiopian Jews, the Falashas to Israel. Has a date been set for this council session?

[Klibi] We believe that the Arab stand on this issue must be based on the constant fact that anything that helps entrench a Jewish presence in Israel must be considered as an act hostile to the Arab nation. If these Falashas were transferred to either the United States or Canada, we would have made no objection. These Jews will be put on the Lebanese-Israeli borders to receive the first blows, while the white Jews are withdrawn and transferred to new settlements. This will strengthen the Zionist entity, and this is something we condemn and denounce. In reply to your question, Libya has asked for an emergency Arab League Council session and Syria supported it. However, we have received no other memorandums in this respect.

[Abu al-Nasr] President Husani Mubarak launched a campaign against the Arab League some time ago, specifically during his recent visit to Paris. This campaign has now calmed down. In your opinion, what were the reasons for this stand?

[Klibi] I was sorry to hear an Arab leader, even though his country's membership in the League is suspended, say such

things about a body with which we are all concerned. Egypt, which had greatly contributed to the establishment and success of the League, is expected to return eventually. I did notlike to think that foreigners might interpret this to mean that Egypt was doubting the League's credibility. This is at a time when our friends are following the League's efforts, moves, and contacts; they realize that the current secretary general has been constantly on the move for the past 5 years and has only been concerned with the sacred mission entrusted to him, just as his predecessors did. I am proud to benefit from the experiences of and be inspired by the pan-Arab spirit of my predecessors, such as my brother and friend Mahmud Riyad, who did a magnificent job, 'Abd al-Khaliq Hassunah, and the late 'Abd al-Rahman 'Azzam. I believe that President Mubrak received either wrong or distorted information, or incorrect interpretations of my statements in Vienna. I spoke then about Egypt's return to the Arab ranks. I said that either Israel accepts the Arab peace plan as the basis for a settlement to the dispute and Egyptian-Israeli relations would then be advanced and not isolated relations, or Egypt should rid itself of the unjust burdens that were imposed on it by the Camp David agreements. My statements were intended to embarass Israel and not insult Egypt.

[Abu al-Nasr] The final question is about the Iraq-Iran war. We asked the secretary general: Is there anything new regarding this war? Are there any signs of hope for ending it?

[Klibi] After 4 years of this war, I believe we have reached the point where the side that has until now rejected a cease-fire and settlement based on international law and legitimate rights must resort to reason. I believe that the escalation of the crisis, the burdens of destruction, grave human and material losses, and the threat to peace in the world's most sensitive regions will undoubtedly play a role in awakening the Iranian leadership's conscience; it will urge them to resort to reason and wisdom so that relations of respect and cooperation in carrying out good, charitable work will be established between Iran and the Arab countries. We hope that current international and Muslim efforts will join European efforts to end this war. This was one the points that I discussed with the EEC's Italian presidency. We also hope that there will be new active efforts to make the logic of brotherhood, good-neighborliness, and peace prevail. We are also pinning our hops on the current role of Algeria, which has exerted charitable efforts for many years. We also hope that other capable Arab countries will do the same because pan-Arab solidarity, security, and interests necessitate this. If more efforts are exerted in this regard, then we are entitled to hope that peace will prevail during this year.

'Arafat Urges Deployment of UN Troops in Camps

NC252137 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] In a press statement tonight, Yasir 'Arafat repeated his request to the Lebanese Government to accept the deployment of UN forces in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps in southern Lebanon. 'Arafat said he would hold the Lebanese Government responsible for the consequences should it decide otherwise.

Continuing his statement, 'Arafat said the Palestinians and Lebanon's Islamic organizations had conducted 895 operations against the Israelis in southern Lebanon. He accused Syrian intelligence of having assassinated Fahd al-Qawasimah in Amman.

AL-ANBA' Interviews Fatah's Khalid al-Hasan

GF281848 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 27 Jan 85 pp 21, 26

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu al-Sa'id, member of the Fatah Central Committee, central information commissioner, and director of the PNC Foreign Relations Department, by unidentified *AL-ANBA'* correspondent in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Palestinian circles have reported that contacts have been made between the Fatah leadership and some dissident sides. Are these reports true? Is there an intention to forgive them and to accept them as members?

[Al-Hasan] First, any news about contacts between Fatah and the dissidents is totally untrue. There is no intention to return any of the dissident leaderships to Fatah. They were separated from Fatah but the door was left open to the misled circles; that is, those circles that believed that the separation was part of a reformation and not for the destruction of the PLO and Fatah. Fatah treats those circles that come to their senses with sympathy but this does not mean that they will easily return to their positions or to any definite position; however, they will not be treated as deserters of the Palestinian people and Fatah. However, with regard to the leaderships, their case has been settled.

Israeli Vehicle Attacked on West Bank

JN281718 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] In accordance with the Revolution Command's directives and decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the homeland — the main arena of conflict — our heroic revolutionaries attacked a Zionist military vehicle yesterday while it was passing through Qalqilyah. The Zionist vehicle was burned and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded during the machinegun and incendiary bomb attack.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation but, as usual, did not mention his losses. He said that his forces immediately besieged the area, imposed a curfew on Qalqilyah, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a large numebr of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of being involved in the operation

Lebanese Resistance Actions Reported

JN281830 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese resistance fighters are escalating their operations against the Zionist enemy vehicles and troops, as well as the militias of the so-called army of

southern Lebanon, inflicting further losses in men and equipment. The resistance fighters detonated high explosive, remote-controlled charges under a Zionist military patrol near Tyre, southern Lebanon, yesterday. One military vehicle was destroyed, another damaged, and their occupants either killed or wounded. Another group attacked a Zionist military position near Sidonyesterday using machineguns and rocket fire. Several of the position's personnel were either killed or wounded.

Admitting the operations, a Zionist military spokesman refrained from revealing his losses adding that his forces launched a search campaign and detained a large number of Palestinian and Lebanese people suspected of collaborating with the resistance men, who withdrew safely to base.

UAE Withdraws From OPEC Meeting in Geneva

LD281141 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1124 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, 28 Jan (KUNA) — The minister of petroleum of the United Arab Emirates withdrew today from the emergency ministerial meeting of OPEC after accusing Nigeria of stabbing OPEC in the back.

Yamani: 'Problem' Settled

LD281217 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, 28 Jan (KUNA) — Saudi Petroleum Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani has said that the problem of the UAE minister of petroleum, Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, has been settled.

Shaykh Yamani told journalists after the ministers had ended the meeting that Dr al-'Utaybah "misunderstood one thing which has now been made clear to him."

The Saudi minister said that the ministers will resume their meeting later today at 1500 GMT.

Shaykh Yamani did not explain what Dr al-'Utaybah had misunderstood nor how it was made clear to him afterwards.

Meanwhile the Indonesian minister of petroleum, Dr Subroto has stressed that Dr al-Utaybah will attend this afternoon's meeting and that the misunderstanding has been cleared up.

OPEC Emergency Conference Meets 28 Jan

LD281238 Kuwait KUNA in English 1106 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, Jan 28 (KUNA) — Oil ministers from the 13 OPEC countries began their emergency conference here Monday to try to revitalise the organization's pricing structure, after talks by the seven-man committee on Sunday failed to reach agreement.

The conference, urgently needing a realistic formula to bring into line price differentials for heavy and light crudes, faced a clash between Gulf countries and Algeria and Nigeria, and the major problem of whether to reduce the $29 reference price for Saudi light.

The oil ministers, after reining in production during January to well below the 16-million barrel a day ceiling, were seeking to narrow the gap between heavy and extra crudes to 2.50 dollars or less. But two meetings Sunday of the seven-member differentials committee chaired by Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani proved unable to work out a compromise accord.

"I cannot tell you there is a final conclusion yet," said UAE Oil Minister Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah after the second meeting. "There are more than four proposals."

The situation on differentials, held over from the December conferences in Geneva with Nigeria and Algeria refusing to accept the temporary decision adopted, appeared more or less unchanged from the Riyadh expert talks a week ago.

Some sign of compromise had emerged however, sources said. The African light producers wanted a differentials gap of only two dollars, after Algerian Oil Minister Belkacem Nabi no longer insisted on a deeper reduction to around 1.50, the sources said. Gulf countries were pushing for 2.50 dollars, after Iraqi Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi abandoned his stated demand for between 2.50 and three dollars.

But the whole issue was still wide open, with the two groups at odds over how to make the changes. Algeria has sought a large increase in the price of heavy crudes and, backed by the six-member market monitoring committee's recommendation to the conference on Saturday, does not want the reference price of $29 a barrel to be cut.

Saudi Arabia has until now resisted a rise in the heavy crudes and proposed the extra light grades be lowered in price — a move which most analysts believe must bring down the marker as well, to perhaps 28.50 or 28 dollars. Sunday's talks did include the reference price issue, sources revealed. Libyan Acting Oil Secretary Fawzi Shakshuki [spelling of name as received] said the committee had "not yet" recommended a new marker level.

Meanwhile, progress was announced Sunday towards operating the auditing system which OPEC decided last month is to closely check on every OPEC country's production, exports and prices in order to avoid cheating. The auditing company to carry out the work had been chosen and a contract would be signed in the coming days, Venezuelan Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said Sunday night. Its recommendations to start the enforcement plan would be put to OPEC's supervisory council shortly afterwards, said Grisanti, one of the five ministers on the council. "We shall move very quickly," he added. He declined to name the company, but described the expected signing of a contract as "fundamental" to beginning the policing scheme fully. The monitoring of tankers is already being made. Experts who are not nationals of an OPEC country are to be installed in that country's ports for the first time, and Grisanti said they could be quickly sent in.

The Venezuelan minister earlier stressed that without an agreement on differentials in Geneva the monitoring plan could not get underway.

Yamani Comments on Pricing

LD281242 Kuwait KUNA in English 1155 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, Jan 28 (KUNA) — Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said at the opening of the OPEC emergency conference here Monday the 13 countries were "not far away from an agreement."

As the ministers began their meetings to narrow the gap between heavy and extra light crudes, Shaykh Yamani said he did not expect a sharp fall in prices. "If you take the weighted average, the adjustment will be cents," he said.

Asked about changing the 29 dollar reference price, Yamani said everything is being discussed. "I do not rule out anything," he added. "What matters is the weighted average price for all the crudes. This what is important for the market."

Yamani said that there were "maybe two or three formulas" to be presented to the conference after Sunday's talks by the differentials committee he chaired. "But they are not far away from each other," he added.

The Saudi oil minister confirmed an estimate that current OPEC production was two million barrels a day below the ceiling of 16 million b/d. Because of the cold weather in the Northern hemisphere, and January demand for oil, the draw down of stocks by consuming countries was "definitely five million."

Yamani ruled out further cuts in the output ceiling agreed last october as "not needed at all."

Nigeria Proposes New Price Scale

AB281926 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] OPEC Ministerial Committee meeting in Geneva has recommended the establishment of a body to streamline OPEC's price structure with current market realities.

The decision follows a submission by Nigeria that any price structure must ensure fair competition between OPEC and non-OPEC crudes. The public affairs manager of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Mr Alex Nwokode, who is attending the meeting, said the committee was also considering Nigeria's proposal that the difference between the prices of the Arabian light and heavy crudes should not exceed $2 per barrel.

An extraor inary meeting of the ministerial committee has today been considering steps expected to ensure a competitive price structure against the last spot market prices of non-OPEC crudes.

Closed Session Discusses Differentials

LD290002 Vienna OPECNA in English 2320 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, 28 Jan, 85 (OPECNA) — Details of the spread of price differentials between Gulf heavy and African extra light crudes will be discussed Tuesday at a closed meeting, Dr Subroto, president of the OPEC conference, said here tonight.

He told newsmen at the end of the evening session that two figures had been mentioned, one proposed by Nigeria, which wanted a two dollar spread between Gulf heavy and African extra light, and a Saudi proposal of a 2.90 dollar differential between the two crudes.

According to Subroto, the two figures were mentioned in the report of the ministerial committee on price differentials, submitted to today's meeting. The committee also reported on the work of experts from OPEC countries who met in Riyadh last week to discuss differentials.

Meanwhile, Saudi minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ahmad Zaki Yamani, who is also chairman of the OPEC ministerial executive council on internal price and production auditing, said that tanker nominations of member countries had been submitted to the conference and the actual work of auditing would start next month.

GULF AFFAIRS

GULF DAILY NEWS: Iraq Using New Attack Bomber

GF290440 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 29 Jan 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Iraq is believed to have used one of its new French fighter-bombers to launch a missile which struck a Greek tanker off the Saudi coast on Sunday night. Earlier reports that Iran was responsible for the attack on the tanker *Serifos* some 45 miles from Ra's Tannurah were said to be incorrect.The Greek skipper of the *Serifos* said his vessel was broadside on to the Iranian coast when it was struck, claiming the Iranians were responsible.

But the missile is now thought to have been an air-launched Exocet AM-39 fired by an Iraqi Mirage EQ-5 of which Iraq has eight. The missile can be fired from between 50 and 70 kms away and follows a curving flight path as it descends to sea skimming height.

The attack took place close to the *Juaymah* light vessel — last week Iraq struck a supply vessel near the Ra's Tannurah light vessel. Both light vessels are equipped with Racon equipment and are used as navigational aids.

The two attacks represent a new trend in the Gulf war with fighters from Iraq ranging further south than at any time. Iraq threatened that once it took delivery of the new Mirage fighter bombers it would strike at any and all Iranian targets.

BAHRAIN

Crown Prince Returns from Pakistan 28 Jan

GF281656 Manama WAKH in English 1625 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Manama, Jan 28 (WAKH) — Bahrain's Crown Prince and Commander in Chief of BDF [Bahrain Defense Force] Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah returned home from Pakistan today after a three-day private visit. He was received by the Amir of Bahrain HH Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, and other senior officials.

KUWAIT

Bulgarian Communications Minister Ends Visit

LD281304 Kuwait KUNA in English 1001 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 28 (KUNA) — Bulgarian Minister of Communications Pando Vanchev ended Monday his six-day visit to the country in which he signed a joint cooperation protocol in the field of postal service. The Bulgarian minister held during his stay here talks with his Kuwait counterpart engineer 'Isa Muhammad al-Masidi.

Vanchev was seen off by Communications Minister al-Masidi and other senior officials.

Interior Minister Comments on Internal Security

GF281130 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 27 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] As five Iranians went on trial in Kuwait yesterday on charges connected with subversive activities, the interior minister has stressed that the authorities are able to deal with any source of sabotage. Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad stressed that all such cases were immediately publicized and he urged residents not to listen to provocative rumors designed to rock the country's stability.

He said that nothing was concealed from the public regarding cases involving the country's security, because the Interior Ministry depended on cooperation from citizens. Shaykh Nawwaf was speaking in an interview with *AL-RISALAH* magazine to be published today.

Kuwait was governed by a constitution and laws, "therefore, each suspect is brought to court and undergoes investigations according to the law," he said.

The five Iranians who appeared before Kuwait's security court yesterday all pleaded not guilty to a series of charges at the public opening of the trial. Future sessions are to be held in camera.

The state security prosecutor, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dakhil charged the five with membership of a subversive organization. Two were also charged with attempting to blow up the Information Ministry complex which houses the country's radio and television broadcasting stations. Van driver 'Abdolhasan Salami and Hoseyn Qadir Sadeqi, who owns a sanitary applicances shop, were charged with the illegal possession of firearms and explosives, as well as criminal conspiracy and attempted arson at the information complex.

The two were also charged along with Gholam Akbar, a barber, and two tailors, identified as Hasan 'Abbdi and 'Abdolhasan 'Abbdi with "membership of a secret organization which aims to subvert the basic structures of society by illegal means." The defendants all denied the charges. 'Abd al-Hasan Ahmad told the court that he did not even know Hosayn Sadeqi until the two were arrested.

The proceedings were delayed when Sadeqi asked for an interpreter, claiming that despite having lived in Kuwait for 30 years, his Arabic was not good enough to conduct his defence. The other four accused joined Sadeqi in his request, and a Farsi-speaking official from Hawalli court was brought in to translate.

Five lawyers had been appointed to defend the accused, but one was unable to attend the hearing, and another asked to be relieved of his duties because he was related to a witness.

Counsellor Ghazi al-Sammar, presiding over the court's panel of three judges, questioned each defendant in turn on the specific charges leveled by the prosecution. The court was adjourned after the defendants made their pleas. A verdict is not expected until next month.

In the interview with *AL-RISALAH*, Shaykh Nawwaf also said that a study was currently underway on a new residence law for

Kuwait, but said that the current "critical" situation in the region made the legislation of new laws "a very dangerous matter." He said the current residence law was not new and Kuwait was probably the only country in the world which made special provision for foreign workers.

He also said that there were "international factors" which made the residence of some expatriates "quasi-permanent."

Assembly Candidate Comments on Security Problems

GF281136 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 27 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] Kuwait's security forces had been facing an increasing burden over the past 20 years because of the country's rapid population growth, a candidate for the National Assembly elections said.

Jasim Muhammad al-Saqr, a candidate for the Al-Shamiyah district, said the influx of expatriates, and the country's economic situation, as well as external factors including the Gulf war and inter-Arab conflicts had led to a rise in crime.

He said that thefts and embezzlements had increased as the population rose, while there had been bombings, hijackings and assassinations because of the external factors. In the past two years particularly, the security forces had been faced with a heavy burden.

Al-Saqr also said that crimes such as infiltrations across Kuwait's borders could only be stopped by raising the quality of the border patrols and coastguard.

Meanwhile, another candidate, Yahya Sumayt has held an economic seminar for voters in his constituency. Sumayt, an engineer, said there were many threats to the oil industry including price wars, the small competition for Kuwait's low-grade crude and the threat of closure of the Strait of Hormuz. He wondered if Kuwait could return to the pre-oil way of life if its oil wealth dried up.

He said every encouragement should be given to industry, agriculture, foreign investment and the provision of financial services, so the country would have something to fall back on.

The recent fall in oil revenues had shown the danger of relying on a sole source of income, he said. The only permanent wealth the Arab world could depend on was its people, he said.

Another candidate, 'Abd al-Rahman 'Asusi said Kuwait was facing an uncertain future because it lacked a clear development plan and depended too heavily on its oil wealth.

He said the lack of a clear strategic plan was highlighted by the way the stock exchange crisis was handled, "when a small minority was given priority at the expense of the future generations."

Cabinet Minister on Parliamentary Elections

GF281602 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 Jan 85 p 1

['Abdallah al-Qaq report]

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has said that the present climate of the elections confirms the democracy that the country enjoys in relation to all issues. The minister added that the confluence of the nationalist stream with the government confirms that what the government proposes expresses the feelings and views of all the people toward local, Arab, and international situations.

In answer to a question posed by *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, he said: This is a new quality which Kuwait has enjoyed over the past few years, even before the beginning of parliamentary life, because we have been accustomed to and have followed this nationalist trend in our life, dealings, and traditions.

On his expectations for the coming parliamentary elections, he said: The elections are characterized by a certain understanding and awareness, particularly since the citizens realize their importance. For this reason they will select competent candidates who can play a positive and useful role for their country and people.

The minister added that the battle will be a strong one, and that it will be characterized by honesty and total care to keep Kuwait an oasis of democracy, which we are accustomed to.

On new ideas concerning the future government which were presented by a journalist, the minister said: These ideas require the forming of 18 ministries, whereas the constitution states that the ministers must be one-third of the members of the National Assembly. This means that there must be 16 ministers, not 18.

OMAN

French Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

GF281310 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Jean-Michel Baylet, French deputy external relations minister [title as heard], arrived in Oman today on a visit to the Sultanate during which he will lead the French side to meetings of the joint Omani-French committee which are scheduled to end at Al-Ghabrah guest house this evening.

In a statement upon his arrival, Jean-Michel Baylet said that his visit to Oman is within the framework of the meetings of the joint Omani-French committee which was formed 2 years ago. He added that during his visit he will hold several meetings with some Omani officials to discuss cooperation between the two countries in various fields. He emphasized that France has long had historic, friendly ties with Oman on various levels.

On his arrival, the French deputy external relations minister was received by Sayf ibn Hamad al-Battashi, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; Muhammad ibn Hasan ibn 'Ali, the Omani

ambassador to France; 'Ali ibn 'Abdallah al-Musafir, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the French ambassador to Oman.

Received by State Minister

GF281420 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received in his office at noon today Jean-Michel Baylet, French deputy external relations minister, and accompanying delegation participating in the meetings of the joint Omani-French committee. They discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern on the international level.

Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah also received in his office at noon today Major General Dennis D. Peters, deputy assistant secretary, Near East and South Asian affairs, for international security affairs at the U.S. Department of Defense. They discussed issues of mutual interest.

Joint Committee Concludes Meetings

GF281930 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The closing session of the joint Omani-French committee was held today. The Omani side was led by Sayf ibn Hamad al-Battashi, Foreign Ministry under secretary, while the French side was led by Jean-Michel Baylet, French deputy external relations minister. During the session, means to bolster cooperation between the two countries in various fields were discussed.

In a statement to radio and press reporters following the end of the final session, Sayf ibn Hamad al-Battashi said that this was the first session of the joint Omani-French committee for economic, cultural, and technical cooperation. He said that during the meetings, international policy and bilateral relations in the technical, cultural, and economic fields were discussed. The committee is expected to hold its second session in Paris next year.

QATAR

Amir Al Thani Receives Belgian Crown Prince

GF281107 Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Doha, 28 Jan (QNA) — The Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani today received Belgium Crown Prince Albert and the delegation accompanying him. They are currently visiting Doha. During the audience the two sides held a general review of the cooperation in various fields between Belgium and Qatar, in addition to the means for promoting cooperation, particularly in the economic, trade, industrial, and agricultural fields.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and crown prince, and 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, Qatari minister of labor and social affairs.

The Belgium crown prince arrived in Doha yesterday on a 4-day visit to Qatar as part of his tour of a number of the region's countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

Newspapers Comment on King Fahd's U.S. Visit

'UKAZ on Background to Visit

PM281623 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Jan 85 p 1

[Political editor (unidentified) article: "Frank and Objective Dialogue at Saudi-U.S. Summit"]

[Excerpts] The forthcoming meeting between His Majesty King Fahd and President Ronald Reagan at the White House in Washington 11 February is of particular importance at this stage, because the region is undergoing successive developments resulting from a complex, tense, and ambiguous situation with regard to solving the Middle East problem. The absence of a solution is especially due to division and slackness in the U.S. stand.

The importance of this meeting stems from the fact that it marks the beginning of a series of Arab-U.S. summit meetings that is likely to determine to a large extent the nature of future Arab steps and moves to work out a joint peace formula in the Middle East.

The meeting is also important not only because it is the first visit to the United States by King Fahd since 1977, but also because it is the first meeting with President Reagan since the Cancun conference in Mexico in 1981.

But the nature of the issues which the meeting will deal with and which concern bilateral relations between the Kingdom and the United States, the general situation in the area, the world economic situation, and the leading role the Kingdom plays within the Arab nation, the prudence, objectivism, balance, and moderation that characterize the Kingdom's policies toward the various issues of destiny, strengthen observers' belief that the meeting will lead to results of tremendous importance that will give real momentum to the efforts to establish peace in the area in the light of a comprehensive view of the stands of the various factors influencing the Arab-Israeli conflict.

With regard to the Middle East problem, His Majesty King Fahd's visit to the United States comes at a time when there are two principal views concerning the solution of the problem, one Arab and the other American. The first is based on His Majesty's peace plan as endorsed at the Fes summit, which adopted it as an Arab peace plan. The U.S. view is based on President Reagan's peace plan which he proposed in September 1982.

It is natural that there are points of agreement and disagreement between the two views. Therefore, an objective would be to reach a solution through a compromise that ensures the maximum agreement and rapprochement of both points of view.

U.S. policy in the area, during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, was severely shaken. Also, continued U.S. support for the Zionist entity has seriously eroded both U.S. credibility and Arab confidence in the U.S. ability to play an impartial role in efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the area.

The U.S. attitude has also led some Arab countries to turn to the Soviet Union to obtain their arms requirements after it became impossible for them to obtain such arms from the United States owing to political and strategic considerations that are strictly attributable to U.S.-Israeli relations and the U.S. attempt to maintain Israel's military superiority, despite the latter's continued rejection of all the initiatives and efforts aimed at establishing peace in the area.

There is no doubt that the United States realizes that the present situation cannot serve U.S. strategic interests in the long term. The United States would be wrong to believe that the present slackness of U.S. action could strengthen the U.S. role in the area. On the contrary, this attitude would give the Soviet Union an opportunity to play a bigger role at the expense of U.S. strategic interests. Also, there are groups in the area that are exploiting this slack U.S. stand in order to cast doubt on the U.S. ability to play an effective and impartial role in the area, thus opening the door to currents not in the interests of the United States.

Consequently, the meeting between His Majesty King Fahd and President Ronald Reagan will be an opportunity to remind the United States of the need to play a positive role by taking a firm stand toward Israel which would, first, strengthen credibility in the United States; and, second, strengthen the belief that the United States would be committed to an impartial policy in the Middle East.

With Reagan's reelection and the fact that this year is free fromelectoral considerations in the U.S. Congress, and a new government has been formed in Israel under Shim'on Peres, the ground seems to be prepared for the adoption of a clearer and more serious U.S. stand on critical Mideast issues.

In view of the serious danger to regional security and stability caused by the continuing Iran-Iraq war — which has been in progress for 4 years owing to the absence of serious U.S. and Soviet efforts to end this war and despite the Arab and Islamic efforts to end it — there is a growing belief that there is a U.S.-Soviet desire to maintain the status quo in order not to get involved in situations that might lead to a clash [between the superpowers].

For this reason the Kingdom will be anxious to seek clarification of the U.S. stand and to urge the United States to act positively to end the war in a manner that will not be contrary to the principles in which the countries of the area believe.

Also, the Kingdom will seek clarification of the U.S. stand on the Lebanese crisis, particularly since Israel has decided to redeploy its forces in southern Lebanon in accordance with a partial withdrawal plan that is threatening to undermine the security situation, and in the light of Israel's intransigent stand at the Al-Naqurah talks.

In the context of the world economic situation his majesty's meeting with President Reagan comes at a time when OPEC is facing a serious challenge by the North Sea oil-producing countries, a challenge that is threatening to result in a price war. Such a war, if it breaks out, will have a grave impact on the world economy and on those who want to start it, while it will have a limited effect on the OPEC member countries. From this realistic viewpoint it is in everybody's interest that cooperation should prevail among all parties in order to uphold common interests and consolidate the stability of the world economy.

While OPEC countries are working to lay down a long-term strategic plan that would take into consideration production and pricing factors, in so doing they are not taking into consideration solely the interests of the member countries, but also the interests of the consuming countries and the world economic situation. Therefore, the attempts being made and the pressures exerted to foil such a step by indulging in a price war or trying to reduce OPEC exports through a search for substitutes or by increasing the strategic oil stockpile do not provide a practical solution or contribute to efforts to maintain the stability of world economy. On the contrary, they are an attempt to harm the interests of the oil-producing countries, which for their part are also trying to diversify their sources of income.

Therefore the Saudi-U.S. summit could provide an opportunity to exchange views on the stability of the world economy and to formulate a method that would meet the joint interests of both the oil-producing and consuming countries. The meeting could also provide the opportunity to confirm the oil-producing countries' right to diversify the sources of their income in order to strengthen their political decisionmaking and their useful role in the world community.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to emphasize that the pressure being applied against our petrochemical products on the European markets is incompatible with the present relations between us and these countries, much of whose products are consumed on our markets, and with the principles of reciprocal treatment.

Certainly it is in everybody's interest that dealings should be within the comprehensive context of the common interest.

AL-YAWM Cites Positive Aspects

GF290550 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] On the upcoming visit of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the United States, the newspaper *AL-YAWM* said editorially: Undoubtedly U.S. influence on the course of events, in addition to the Saudi prestige, will make this historic visit attract the attention of many Arabs and Muslims. Focusing attention on Washington and the upcoming U.S.-Saudi meeting contributes to the positive prospects of this visit and the progress it will make dealing with the current issues — not only for this region but for international peace and security.

Foreign Minister Meets With Thai Counterpart
LD281244 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, conferred today with Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, who is currently visiting the Kingdom.

Following the meeting, which lasted nearly 3 hours, Prince Saud al-Faysal stated that his talks with the Thai minister centered on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest, particularly issues pertaining to Southeast Asia and the Middle East. His Highness stated that he had conveyed to the Thai minister the Kingdom's viewpoint on the Middle East and Palestinian problems, the situation in Lebanon, and the Iraq-Iran war.

He expressed his appreciation for Thai understanding of the situation in the Middle East and its support for legitimate rights in the region. He noted that this understanding acquires special importance because Thailand in a member of the Security Council and consequently will make a positive contribution to the international organization's endeavors regarding the Middle East, Palestinian problem, situation in Lebanon, and Iraq-Iran war.

His highness the foreign minister said that he had listened to the Thai minister's explanation of the situation in Southeast Asia, particularly in relation to Vietnam's aggression in Cambodia. His Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal added that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was also discussed.

He affirmed that the talks between the two sides were very useful and that the two countries share the same views on maintaining their independence, the rule of law in international relations, confrontation and condemnation of aggression, and peace and stability.

Concerning the forthcoming visit of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the United States, his highness affirmed that this visit will have great importance because the issues to be discussed not only concern the region but also international peace and security.

His highness pointed out that this visit comes at an important period following the American President's recent reelection and, consequently, the course to be adopted by the American Government will become clear. He stressed the importance of the United States' role in not only maintaining international security but also in the Middle East region.

The Thai foreign minister, meanwhile, expressed his appreciation and thanks to His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal for the kind welcome and hospitality he had received.

He explained in his press statement that a number of topics in addition to bilateral relations were reviewed during the talks held today. The Thai foreign minister said that his country sought to cement the basis for serious work and cooperation in the commercial, technical, economic, and other fields of mutual interest.

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the government and the people of the Kingdom for the attention given to the Thai workers in the Kingdom which reflects the friendly relations linking the two countries.

The Thai minister reviewed topics discussed during the meeting. He said that he briefed His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal about the Cambodian problem and Thailand's suffering because of the influx of refugees from Cambodia across the border. He noted that his country was trying to find a solution for this problem through peaceful means.

He noted that during the meeting His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal acquainted him with the Middle East problem and the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said that the views of the two countries coincided on these issues.

Bangkok Reports on Talks
BK290352 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila is leading a 32-man delegation on a 4-day official visit to Saudi Arabia to promote trade and economic relations.

Foreign Minister Sitthi reportedly held talks yesterday morning with Saudi Foreign Ministry officials on matters of mutual concern.

Thailand stressed the new role that the country could play in promoting peace in the Middle East since it has been elected a member of the United Nations Security Council.

In a separate meeting, the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office negotiated with senior officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals for the renewal of a crude oil contract with Thailand which expired in December last year. Saudi Arabia supplied about 55,000 barrels of light crude oil per day to Thailand.

Representatives from the Interior Ministry and the Labor Department also held a separate discussion with their Saudi counterparts.

After Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Sitthi and the Thai delegation will proceed to Kuwait and start a 3-day visit to Oman on 4 February before returning to Bangkok on 7 February.

Foreign Minister Meets Husayn, Returns 28 Jan
LD281939 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1845 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (SPA) — Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal this evening returned to Riyadh from Amman following a brief visit of several hours. He conveyed a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to his brother, King Husayn of Jordan, in connection with the current Middle East situation, and exchanged views on issues of interest to the two fraternal countries.

UAE

Paper Blames OPEC Crisis on Ministers, Glut

GF290922 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jan (WAM) — The UAE newspaper *AL-WAHDAH* has blamed the OPEC ministers for the current OPEC troubles in the international oil market. The paper warned the ministers, who are meeting in Geneva, against undertaking any reduction of the benckmark price, indicating that a solution to crisis lies only in reducing production.

The paper warned against the prevailing differences in views among the OPEC ministers and said that the ministers are responsible for failing to reach a solution. The paper went on to say: "The absence of a solution implies scuttling OPEC again and exposing it to total collapse." The paper continued: "It is a joint responsibility. The resolution must be unanimous in order to preserve OPEC as one of the achievements of the people of the Third World countries."

The paper pointed out that the current problems of OPEC lie in the crude oil issue, because on the international market supply exceeds demand. The paper indicated that the "tragedy can also be attributed to the price war which began in December when Britain and Nigeria lowered the prices of their oil by $2 a barrel."

Concluding, the paper said: "If the OPEC ministers are serious in extricating themselves from the current imbroglio, then they have to adopt a serious and committed policy which takes into consideration the basic interests of the OPEC countries and peoples."

PDRY

Chairman Receives Kuwaiti Official

GF282010 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office today Major General Yusuf al-Khurafi, under secretary at the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry.

During the meeting, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his satisfaction over the development of fraternal relations between the PDRY and Kuwait. He noted that the development of these relations serves the wishes of the peoples of the two fraternal countries.

Brother Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and interior minister, attended the meeting.

Chairman Receives PLO's 'Arafat 28 Jan

GF281956 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office today Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

During the meeting they discussed a number of issues concerning relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. They also exchanged views on developments in the Palestinian arena in particular, and the Arab and international situation in general.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad emphasized the importance of the unity and cohesion of PLO ranks and the Arab national liberation forces. He expressed his deep belief in the certain victory of the revolutionary cause of the Arab Palestinian people. He stressed that the party, people, and government of the PDRY will adhere to their constant and basic stand in continuing fraternal support for the struggle of Arab Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Kadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; and Brother Kamil Salih Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, attended the meeting.

YAR

GDR Foreign Minister Departs Sanaa 28 Jan

GF281850 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpt] GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer left Sanaa today after concluding a 3-day visit to the YAR. During his visit he held talks with officials in the country on issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister, Soviet Envoy Sign Agreements

GF281326 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, received today Soviet Ambassador to Sanaa Anatoliy Ivanovich Filev. During the meeting, the two exchanged ratification documents on consular and trade agreements between the YAR and the USSR.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Visit
GF291000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Jan (WAKH) — PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to the YAR. This visit comes in the framework of the current tour which the Palestinian leader is undertaking to a number of Arab countries in order to explain the latest developments of the Palestinian issue.

'Abd al-Majid Addresses Assembly Committees
NC272110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA) -- Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has emphasized that Egypt has not given up hope of achieving Arab unity or hope in the constant efforts to iron out Arab differences. These differences have become the dominant characteristic at a time when the Palestinian issue is in dire need of a specific and clear Arab stand in support of the fraternal Palestinian people's demands for their inalienable rights.

This came in a statement Dr 'Abd al-Majid made this evening before the joint meeting of the People's Assembly Committees on Arab, Foreign, and National Security Affairs, chaired by Muhammad Hamid Mahmud, chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee.

The following is the text of 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's statement:

Session chairman, committee chairmen, ladies and gentlemen, members of the People's Assembly:

Since our meeting during the middle of last December, several momentous developments affecting Arab and international relations in general have taken place. Other developments in the international arena affecting our future diplomatic moves have also taken place.

During the second half of December, Egypt attended the first meeting between the ICO foreign ministers, following Egypt's resumption of its ICO membership.

During the contacts I held when I was in Sanaa to attend the meeting, the prevailing impression was that the Arab states are aware of the responsibility of collective action and are seeking to achieve it; that the ICO has taken positive steps regarding the possibilities for achieving the desired peaceful settlement of the Iraq-Iran war; and that there is a clear and definite determination to continue supporting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and to bolster the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the leader of their struggle.

However, only a few weeks later, events and evidence proved that the Arab division and the inability to achieve Arab unanimity or to set a date for an Arab summit conference has continued. Moreover, an Arab state, which has been committed to the 1974 Algiers conference resolutions and to all the resolutions adopted by the ensuing Arab and Islamic summit conferences, has abandoned its commitment and has issued a public statement that it does not recognize the PLO. Despite all the negative effects of this stand, the Arab will has continued to be incapable of expressing itself on this matter. Furthermore, only a few days after the participants of the Islamic states' foreign ministers' conference adopted resolutions regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the Iranian foreign minister issued a public statement in which he backed down on all that was officially agreed upon at the conference.

Despite all this, Egypt has not given up the hope of the possibility of achieving unity in the Arab ranks and in its constant efforts to settle inter-Arab differences. These differences have become the dominant characteristic at a time when the Palestinian issue is in dire need of a specific and clear Arab stand in support of the fraternal Palestinian people's demands for their inalienable rights. The international community well understands these demands and rights in light of the long political struggle led by the PLO.

You, perhaps, share my view that it is extremely important for the Arabs to move quickly and effectively to provide a clear picture of a basis for a just and peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue that will lead to arrangements for establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and will primarily restore the special positive role enabling Arab solidarity to regain its strength, effectiveness, and ability to influence events in the true interest of the pan-Arab causes. In this regard, Egypt supports every effort, welcomes every consultation, and supports every call for uniting the Arab ranks.

While it is eager to preserve its fundamental affiliation with the Arab world and to honor all its Arab commitments, Egypt cannot adopt a wait-and-see stand vis-a-vis Arab developments. Therefore, Egypt is diligently seeking to achieve a formula for Arab solidarity based on the concept that has been defined by the president, namely, that Egypt constitutes strength for the Arabs and the Arabs constitute strength for Egypt.

The wise step taken by Jordan to restore full relations with Egypt has provided a vital impetus to Arab action and unity of will and to the establishment of constant consultations on and coordination of a joint endeavor to regain Arab and Palestinian rights.

Ever since His Majesty King Husayn outlined his initiative before the PNC on 22 November, the achievement of a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement became essential to promoting the peace process in the area. We are confident that, in time, the free and conscientious Palestinian will is able, through dialogue and consultation, to arrive at a formula that is acceptable to Jordan and the PLO. Thisformula would make it possible to take advantage of the impending contacts with the various international parties for advancing the peace efforts in the area with the participation of the PLO as well as allowing the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination and to establishing their own state.

So far, the Israeli Government has shown a degree of moderation in its actions, whether with regard to the withdrawal from Lebanon, or to statements made by the prime minister on the inclination to settle the Tabah problem and accept the principle of international arbitration as stipulated in the provisional procedural agreement to solve the border issue, which was signed on 25 April 1982 between Egypt and Israel with the participation of the United States. Despite some intransigent statements and unacceptable interpretations made by some people in Israel, we hope that the Israeli Government will continue to show its good intentions toward peace by concluding an agreement with Lebanon providing for specific timetables for total withdrawal from Lebanese territory, the restoration of complete sovereignty in Lebanon, and the Israeli commitment to carry out this withdrawal according to specific timetables and approved arrangements to safeguard the lives of civilians. We also hope

that Israel will carry out its commitment to settling the Tabah problem and will then move toward achieving a just and genuine solution to the Palestinian problem.

Since approving the peace strategy as a firm and continuing objective of its policy, Egypt has been eager to fulfill all its commitments toward Israel and to embark with goodwill and complete responsibility on deepening the concept of genuine peace among the peoples of the area.

It is needless to reiterate and reaffirm that Egypt's commitments toward Israel are completely linked to Israel's commitments toward Egypt within the framework of bilateral relations, and are completely separate from Egypt's commitments toward the fraternal Arab countries. To say that these commitments are contradictory, or to link Egypt's commitments to the Arab nation with its commitments to Israel is to ignore historic and geographical facts and to contradict the concept of peace itself. The desired peace is one that achieves security and stability, makes it possible to devote resources to developing the people of the area, and does not involve military occupation, implementation of settlement policies, or manifestations of extremism and intransigence.

Regarding the dimensions of Egyptian diplomatic activity in light of all the previous facts, we are exerting every possible effort to achieve our national and pan-Arab aims by following a foreign policy based on our original Arab, Islamic, and African affiliation; the main principle of nonalignment; the principle of opening all the channels of communication with the friendly countries; and the constant endeavor to advance the peace process and to spread the spirit of moderation, the atmosphere of stability, and the conditions of progress for all the area's peoples and their future generations.

Egypt has given everything it can in fulfillment of its obligations for the sake of peace. An Egyptian delegation left this morning for Beersheba to resume the attempt to achieve a final solution to the Tabah border problem. I think that the Israeli Government has become fully convinced of the extent of this problem's link to the Egyptian national conscience and that the return of Tabah to Egypt represents a principled move that indicates the Israeli Government's direction and intentions toward the desired peace.

Austrian Defense Minister Continues Visit

Meets Abu Ghazalah

NC271410 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA) — A session of military talks between Egypt and Austria was held at the Armed Forces General Command headquarters today. The Egyptian side was headed by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. The Austrian side was headed by Austrian National Defense Minister Friedheld Frischenschlager who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

The Egyptian side to the talks included Lieutenant Colonel Sayyid Hamdi, Air Defense Force commander; Vice Admiral 'Ali Tawfiq Jad, Naval Forces commander; Major General 'Ali Mutawi', Air Force chief of staff; and Major General Kamal Abu al-'Azayim, Defense Ministry secretary general.

The Austrian side included a working group representing Austrian military industries experts, and the Austrian ambassador in Cairo.

At the outset of the session Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah underlined President Husni Mubarak's interest in strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between Egypt and Austria in all fields. He said the relations of friendship between the two countries are strong and solid and are based on mutual respect and joint interests.

A military source said that during the session there was an exchange of views on military topics of mutual interest particularly in joint weapon manufacturing. He said that the Austrian side submitted a review of the Austrian arms industry technology pertaining to some weapons in which the Egyptian side is interested. It was decided that military technical committees from both sides would be formed. These committees will undertake to study and define the spheres of cooperation. Their reports will be submitted at the final session of the military talks between the two sides on Tuesday. The source also said that the Austrian side expressed readiness to cooperate with Egypt.

Military reception ceremonies for the Austrian defense minister were held before the session of talks started.

After the talks the Austrian defense minister visited the unknown soldier memorial in Nasr City where he placed a bouquet of flowers. He was accompanied on this visit by Major General 'Umar Hammad, the commander of the central military area.

Received by Mubarak

NC280907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received Austrian Defense Minister Friedhelm Frischenschlager today. The meeting was also attended by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, and Franz Bogen, Austrian ambassador to Cairo.

The Austrian defense minister arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday on a 4-day visit.

Ends Visit Abruptly

AU281316 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1310 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo/Vienna — Defense Minister Frischenschlager today broke off his visit to Egypt early and is already on his way back to Vienna.

Frischenschlager was originally scheduled to return home at 1720 tomorrow. This would have been after the cabinet meeting. It is expected that the defense minister will present Federal Chancellor Sinowatz with a detailed report about his reception

of Walter Reder [Nazi war criminal released from Italian jail on 24 January].
In the meantime Sinowatz has confirmed that he had requested Frischenschlager to return in time for the cabinet meeting.

'Abd al-Majid Receives Departing British Envoy
NC281538 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today received British Ambassador Sir Michael Weir to bid him farewell on the occasion of his transfer back to England.

During the meeting, Dr 'Abd al-Majid praised the strong and historic relations between Egypt and Britain, and the development of these relations in various fields. He also expressed his pleasure about the official visit he will be making to Britain on 4-5 February at the invitation of British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. He said he is looking forward to meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and British officials.

Ghali Returns To Cairo, Makes Statement
NC271258 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Rome this morning. He said that he will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of the discussions which he held in France, Mali, the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Italy, and the Vatican during his 2-week tour. Dr Ghali added that he conveyed messages from President Husni Mubarak to the Presidents of Mali, the Ivory Coast, and Senegal and to the Pope. He said he held discussions with the foreign ministers of the states that he visited on issues of interest to Egypt and these states and on ways of bolstering the relations between Egypt and these countries in various fields.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also said that he discussed issues pertaining to preparations to convene the OAU foreign ministers conference to be held in Addis Ababa as well as the African questions facing the OAU with the foreign ministers of Mali, the Ivory Coast, and Senegal.

Jordanian Labor Minister Arrives in Cairo
NC282204 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA) — Dr Taysir 'Abd al-Jabir, Jordanian minister of labor and social development, arrived in Cairo this evening from Amman at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

The Jordanian minister stated after his arrival that during his visit to Egypt, which is taking place within the framework of strengthening bilateral relations, he will hold talks on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the area of labor relations, social development, social insurance, and vocational training.

He added that he hopes that an agreement between the two countries on labor relations, the exchange of expertise and studies, and vocational training will be signed.

The Jordanian minister was received on his arrival at Cairo International Airport by Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of manpower and training.

Economy Minister Returns From Sudan
NC271642 Cairo MENA in English 1613 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, Jan 27 (MENA) — Economy Minister Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id returned home today from Khartoum at the end of a five-day visit to Sudan after he led his country's delegation to the economic talks between the two countries. The talks dealt with the customs-trade issues, monetary policies and trade exchange between the two countries.

The talks took place within the context of integration agreements concluded between Egypt and Sudan.

Foreign Ministry Sources Cited on Israeli Ties
PM281649 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cairo: Settlement of Tabah Question Would Not Mean Return of Egyptian Ambassador to Tel Aviv"]

[Excerpt] Cairo — Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources have emphasized that the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv does not solely depend on the settlement of the Tabah issue. They have told *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that, as previously announced by Egypt, the ambassador's return would depend on an Israeli move to settle the Palestinian question, final withdrawal from Lebanon, and the return of Egyptian sovereignty to Tabah.

The sources pointed out that the talks on Tabah would show to what extent the Israeli Government is prepared to settle the outstanding problems with Egypt in light of recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Talks on Tabah began in Beersheba yesterday in the presence of Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. delegations.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Raps Israel, U.S. Support
PM281001 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Jan 85 p 5

[Muhammad al-Haywan article: "A Word of Love"]

[Excerpts] Ahmad Masud is an Afghan legend. He is one of the leaders of the Afghan struggle against the Soviet occupation. He has scored more than one victory. He has emphasized that the Soviets are carrying out genocide operations against the Islamic people of Afghanistan.

Let us move one step closer to our borders to discern the crime that has been committed and has been in progress here for 30

years. It is a crime committed openly and flagrantly. It has not stopped for one moment since Israel came into existence: A war of extermination against the Palestinian people, all Arabs, and all religions.

The U.S. attitude to Afghanistan is different from the U.S. attitude to Palestine. The United States is against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. It has admittedly given aid worth $240 million to the mujahidin, but where Palestine and Lebanon are concerned the payments go to Israel. The United States pays Israel the cost of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the cost of settling Ethiopian Jews in the West Bank. It has actually said that it is opposed to the settlement of the Ethiopians in the West Bank. The truth is something else. The white Jews in all Israeli cities have refused to accept the Ethiopians. In that respect Israel is just like racist South Africa, which treats people on the basis of their color not conviction. Israel imports black Jews but refuses to let them mix with the white Jews.

The United States does not see any contradiction between its position on Afghanistan and its position on Palestine and does not see the Israeli-Soviet correlation in the Middle East. It does not see any of the things happening in the region and it does not realize that it is losing one Arab friend after another because of its alignment with Israel. It does not see any of these things because it is wearing spectacles made in Israel.

Briefs

Population Statistics — Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA) — The Central Bureau for General Mobilization and Statistics has announced that Egypt's population now stands at 48 million: 24,331,714 males and 23,668,286 females. This represents an increase of 1 million people since 19 April 1984. [Excerpt][*Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 28 Jan 85 NC*]

3d Army Commander Cables Saddam On Offensive

JN281412 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1220 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] We have just received the following: To Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

From Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the 3d Army Corps.

In light of your sound directives, formations from the Al-Miqdad, Al-Muthanna, Qutaybah, and Al-Husayn forces carried out bold attacks against the targets set by our command on the night of 27-28 January 1985. These formations managed to occupy their targets, kill a large number of the magian Khomeyni remnants, and destroy a large number of enemy positions, stockpiles, and vehicles.

The Al-Husayn forces command was splendid in carrying out its tasks and in inflicting massive losses on enemy personnel. In addition to the large number of enemy personnel that were wounded and captured, our brave units seized a quantity of weapons and equipment. This is cogent proof of your valiant soldiers' faith in the sacredness of their battle and the wisdom of your leadership. It is God who grants victory.

Last but not least, I make a pledge to you, my great leader, the pledge of men that the valiant and glorious 3d Army Corps men will, under your wise leadership, be at the head of our Armed Forces in the honorable competition for glory.

Glory to our righteous martyrs and both power and pride to great Iraq; humiliation and disgrace to swine Khomeyni. Let the magian fire be extinguished forever. May God grant us success.

[Signed] Staff Maj Gen Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the 3d Army Corps

Communique Details Actions

JN281800 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,725 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 28 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces today scored a new splendid victory over Iraq's defeated enemies, to be added to their record that abounds with heroism and great deeds. The splendid victory scored in the battles waged last night and this morning is the good fruit of goodwill and justice that is deeply rooted in our great people's conscience and heart. This victory is also the inevitable result of the unique leadership of Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, this nation's hero and cavalier who is carrying its banner in the battle for a free, united existence.

O proud Iraqis, O glorious Iraqi women: as long as your sacrifices are flooding in this manner and as long as your jihad is continuing day and night in defense of the homeland and for the establishment of human happiness and security in both the present and future, glory will continue to be yours, both strength and dominion will continue to accompany your steps, and the banner of victory will continue to be the lot of your soldiers, God willing.

As for the defeated remnants which your enemies, the Iranian rulers, threw in to commit aggression against your country, the battles of last night and this morning showed that they are too weak to stand before the gallant Iraqis and their destructive fire. The heralds of victory will continue and the enemies' defeats will be successive until they yield to right and its owners, and to peace and its callers. We are satisfied to have God as our guide and helper. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday and today:

1. The heroic forces of the 3d Army Corps carried out the plan drawn up for them by our great leader to advance on three axes in the operational sector east of Basra in order to occupy specified targets. The forces of the 3d Army Corps managed in lightning attacks to occupy the set targets and to reach the specific depth by means of splendid field planning, huge determination, and extremely skillful performance. With God's help, the enemy was destroyed in the positions targeted by our bold attack. Our forces took up positions in their new places after inflicting massive losses on the enemy, both dead and wounded. Several of the enemy officers and personnel were captured. Our forces also seized large quantities of serviceable weapons and equipment. Be blessed, 3d Army Corps men, command, officers, and soldiers. We thank God for this victory.

2. The valiant hawks of our bold aircraft swooped down on two maritime targets, one very big and another big, at 1800 [1500 GMT] yesterday. After delivering accurate and effective hits to the two targets, they returned safely to base, protected by God.

3. With a splendid tactical effort, the valiant air hawks carried out attacks against the enemy's defeated remnants in the operational sector east of Basra, giving the most splendid support to our forces which carried out the memorable attack this morning. After the valiant sky hawks had poured the thunderbolts of Iraqi wrath down on the enemy's remnants, they returned safely with their aircraft, praise be to God. Our aircraft carried out 59 combat missions today.

4. With bold air attacks, our helicopter gunships carried out 22 combat missions against 6 enemy troop concentrations in the southern sector of the operational theater and managed to confuse the enemy's movement, inflicting large losses in men and equipment before they returned safely to base under God's care and protection.

5. One hardware stockpile and one infantry position were destroyed in the northern sector of the operational theater, and one observation post was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

6. Two infantry positions, one vehicle, and one tank were destroyed in the central sector of the operational theater.

7. Fresh groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the operational theater. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 January 1985

TV Shows Captured POW's

JN282117 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA) — Baghdad Television tonight showed a film about evacuating groups of Iranian POW's who fell into the hands of the Iraqi forces during the lightning offensive launched by the 3d Army Corps against specific targets east of Basra last night and this morning. The film reflected the humanitarian treatment and health care that the Iraqi forces rendered to the POW's.

Infantry Called 'Basic Factor'

JN290734 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA) — It was mentioned here today that the infantry forces were the basic factor in the implementation of the plan of military advance toward the Iranian targets and their occupation yesterday. The *AL-QADISIYAH* newspaper issued by the Iraqi Defense Ministry said that infantry forces were the basic element in the Iraqi offensive toward the three axes and the occupation of the defined targets in the southern sector.

The paper said that the artillery and the air force backed the infantry forces, which approached their targets and reached them after waging a decisive and quick battle. The paper also explained that the splendid coordination among the forces participating in this operation has had its effect in inflicting more losses in life and equipment on the enemy.

An Iraqi military spokesman announced yesterday that units from the 3d Army Corps advanced on three axes in Iranian territory, occupied Iranian positions and took up positions in them.

Military Statement on Hit Maritime Target

JN281950 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Almighty God wished to increase his blessings on the Iraqis, who are struggling for the sake of justice, peace, and human dignity. In the midst of joy over our valiant forces' accomplishments in the heroic 3d Army Corps' sector, our gigantic Air Force has scored another victory to be added to its great epics. At 2000 [1700 GMT] today, the brave sky hawks carried out a bold raid against a large maritime target, hitting it accurately and effectively. They returned safely with their aircraft, carrying new glad tidings to the people of great Iraq.

Let the charlatans in Tehran, headed by their arch charlatan, know that this is Iraq's reply to their empty self-conceit, vulgar claims, and insistence on the policy of aggression. What is in store for them in the coming days will be more bitter and harsher. It is God who grants victory.

[Dated] 28 January 1985

Information Minister Layla Sharaf Resigns

JN281750 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1734 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf today tendered her resignation from the Jordanian Government. She was appointed minister of information on 10 January 1984. In her letter of resignation to Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Mrs Sharaf said that she was unprepared to follow an information policy that is unclear and is not clearly devoted to serving the homeland and its people, as she put it.

She added that information policy in Jordan has recently been characterized by convulsions with regard to freedom of opinion, even in very simple pieces of information. She also said that she sensed the official Jordanian uneasiness with regard to the citizens and to the people's channels of knowledge and information. Mrs Sharaf said: I promised the press in my dear country that I would not remain in my post if I could not protect them in their endeavors to express their ideas and pains.

Royal Decree Accepts Resignation

JN281919 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1910 GMT 28 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — A royal decree has been issued accepting the resignation of Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf as of today, Monday, 28 January, 1985.

King Husayn Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

JN281222 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received the Saudi foreign minister, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, at the Al-Nadwah Palace at noon today. The Saudi foreign minister conveyed to his majesty the king a message from Saudi monarch His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Jordan at noon today on a brief visit. In a statement to the Amman radio correspondent, Prince al-Faysal said he will convey a message to King Husayn from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the Middle East situation and on exchanging viewpoints on issues of common interest. He said his visit to Jordan comes in light of the recent visit by King Husayn to Saudi Arabia and his meeting with his brother King Fahd. This visit also comes within the framework of the continued consultations between officials from both countries.

The Saudi foreign minister was received by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

Saudi Foreign Minister Leaves

JN281952 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The Saudi foreign minister, His Highness Crown Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, left Amman this evening. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri saw him off at Amman airport.

Husayn Meets With Fatah's Khalid al-Hasan

JN281825 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan met with King Husayn in Amman last night. They reviewed Jordanian-Palestinian relations within their joint political action on both the Arab and international arenas. Khalid al-Hasan arrived in Amman yesterday on a visit of several days to Jordan.

King Husayn Interviewed by PBS Television

JN282034 Amman Television Service in English 1828 GMT 28 Jan 85

["Full recording" of interview King Husayn granted to an unidentified reporter of the U.S. television network PBS — date and place not given]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Your Majesty, you have been involved in a lot of intensive diplomatic activity lately with Egypt, with the Palestine Liberation Organization, in an area where diplomatic achievements are difficult to come by. What is the design of your diplomacy? What are you hoping to achieve?

[Husayn] Well, to begin with, I really firmly believe that the tragedy that has affected this area for so long is really in its final phases. We either are able, within the very short period of time ahead of us, to somehow move toward a sensible, logical, needed solution to establish a just and durable peace in this area, or the chance is lost for all times to come. And we felt very strongly that we were suffering from a state of paralysis over the recent past, and the actions that we took first of all were stemming from our belief that we should see what could be done to restore the normal relations between brother Arab states, and in particular with Egypt, the most important of the members of the Arab family, and that it was time to do that. We had seen very positive steps from Egypt in regard to various problems that we have faced in this area: the Lebanese problem, the problem of the PLO and Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran war, and obviously their concern for a comprehensive peace settlement with regard to the Arab-Israeli issue. So, the time was ripe and we were very happy indeed to have taken that step.

Another area of difficulty was the area of the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian representation in particular after the events in Beirut following the Israeli aggression and later on in Tripoli. Attempts were clear in our minds to try to dominate the Palestinian representative body and control it by some within the area and whichever forces in this world desire this same end. We would not have intervened, had it not been such, if it were a question of a change within the Palestinian scene brought about

by a desire by the Palestinian constituency, well and good. But it was a violation of the Arab summit agreements.

And so at a certain point in time, when the PNC meeting was to be held and that ran into difficulties, we told our brothers in the PLO that, if all the doors were closed, it would meet here in Amman. And that is exactly what happened. Many wondered whether a quorum would be possible. It was. And once again the PLO was really in a position to assert its presence, hopefully not for the purpose of that alone. We have talked to them very very seriously that elements of realities in the area make it imperative that they derive their stand from their constituency; and that a vacuum not be created at the most crucial moment in terms of what is happening in the occupied territories.

[Reporter] With respect to the occupied territories, is this why time is running out for a Middle East peace, that the de facto situation there is verging upon Israeli annexation of them?

[Husayn] This is very much the case in one respect. Another element is the despair of our brothers and people in the occupied territories that grew with what the PLO was subjected to. Now the PLO is back and hopefully it is free from outside influences.

[Reporter] Is the PLO back though, or has it in effect divided and conquered itself and split into two feuding factions?

[Husayn] I believe that the reasons for the division, if that is the case, were the desire of some in the area to control the Palestinian scene. But I believe the overwhelming majority moved towards having a freer atmosphere in which they could hopefully represent the hopes and aspirations and feelings of the people in the occupied territory and live up to their expectations.

[Reporter] You have offered to join with the Palestine Liberation Organization in negotiating with Israel. What is the nature of your offer? What are the conditions of your offer?

[Husayn] There are no conditions. We feel that we are involved with the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people more so than any other members of the Arab family. What happens affects us directly. This has been the case throughout the past. We have given them the choice. They could go their own way if they felt they could achieve anything. If they didn't and they wanted and needed Jordan to be a partner with them, well then we will look at our relations in the future -- Palestinian- Jordanian. We would like to leave that out of the realm of negotiations for a solution to the problem. The issue is one of the members of one family and how the relations should be developed and should evolve in the future. A relationship based on equality. Two units -- Palestinian and Jordanian -- coming together with their independent local governments, house of representatives. Hopefully, at a higher level, a joint house representing both sides and a central government.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, what will the PLO leadership have to agree to in order for Jordan to join with it in seeking negotiations with Israel?

[Husayn] Basically, the formula embodied in Security Council Resolution 242, the common denominator of all initiatives to resolve Arab-Israeli issues so far. Territory for peace. And we say that the umbrella for future attempts at finding a solution would be the Security Council, and particularly, the five permanent members of the Security Council.

[Reporter] Which would include the Soviet Union?

[Husayn] Which would include the Soviet Union.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, with respect to the new relationship with Egypt and your ongoing association with Iraq, have you sought to construct here a kind of northern, moderate, Arab axis that would serve as a peace constituency for your hoped-for negotiating effort with the Israelis?

[Husayn] Not necessarily only that really, but we hope that we will move away from the state of paralysis which I referred to earlier where everything has to be agreed upon by the total Arab family. Obviously, this is, ideally, an objective that we should try to reach, but it has proven unattainable. So Egypt is important, Iraq is important, the rest of the Arabs in our family, the majority of them are important. But, the nucleus is a Jordanian-Palestinian or Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on how we should move, that the time is vital, that we should move before either hope is lost in the occupied territories once again if we keep moving about without any sense of direction, or the chance is missed. And at the same time, we would work closely with Egypt on the one hand. We have an understanding on all issues.

Iraq, for example, supports anything that the Jordanians and Palestinians agree upon. And this is the feeling of the majority within the Arab world who wanted to create some form of backbone within this Arab world to move away from the state of paralysis and move before it is too late.

[Reporter] Speaking of a backbone, are you optimistic that Shim'on Peres can create a backbone in the Israeli Government that would be able to meet you in a conciliatory way at a conference table?

[Husayn] I am not necessarily sure that this may happen. But, let us hope that this would be the case somehow....

[Reporter interrupting] Is there an encouraging sign in the Israeli staged withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Husayn] I think that that was inevitable, that such a step would be taken whether it is a withdrawal, whether it is a relocation of forces. What the price is and its fullest extent, I really don't know. But, I believe that what we have seen in this area is a struggle between responsible elements. If we take the Arab side, we have that and the more extreme. And the same appears to have been happening on the Israeli scene as well. And there seems to be almost a unity of purpose in terms of the extremists on both sides, oddly enough. And it is the challenge that we face to see if we can move ahead if we can bring about some progress before it is too late.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, one of America's interests in this region is in having friends among the leadership of moderate Arab states. In the past, you have been one of those friends. But

this past year you got rather sharply critical of the United States. Why? What have we done to let you down?

[King Husayn] I don't think that you have let me down. One may use a better description; you might have let yourselves down as well, in a way. But it is not really the question of last year. I have always been honest and I have always been frank with our friends in the United States over the many many years that have passed. Recently I think that it might have been important to go public in some respects, hopefully to create at least a debate amongst our friends as to where they are going. And as result where all of us are going in this part of the world. And one would hope this a phase that we can all overcome in our mutual best interests.

[Reporter] What has disappointed you in particular about American policy in the region, in relations with Jordan in particular?

[King Husayn] The continuous erosion of positions since 1967. The vast difference between the position of the United States in 1967 and in 1956 over the Arab-Israeli issue. The situation as we see it is deteriorating on the ground in terms of the occupied territories. The conditions of total and overwhelming support for Israel, right or wrong, militarily, materially, and morally, which I believe is at variance with what the United States has always stood for with which we identify in terms of principles and ideals.

[Reporter] What do you see as being our fundamental interests in this region?

[King Husayn] Your interests are in the establishment of a just and durable peace in this area. And if this is attained, we'll have, obviously, an interest in securing the friendship of all within the area of the vast majority of people in this part of the world. And it is natural, and what is annoying us and hurting us very very much indeed is that obstacles are created that are eroding this natural trend.

[Reporter] You are embarked upon an approach to achieving your vision of a just and durable peace, and perhaps along the way you will need some help from the United States. What may you need from the United States in the peace process in the coming months?

[King Husayn] I would hope very very much indeed that the United States would play the major role in contributing to the establishment of a just and durable peace that only the United States can play. And I would hope that they would be fair and just. I'd hope that they'd live up to their commitments of the past, made to me over many many years, and that they would not differentiate between friends in this area by having more favored ones rather than less favored ones, that the domestic scene in the United States should not affect the United States as a superpower, a major power.

I hope very very much and pray that this new phase in United States life will be one to get it to gain strength, to become a major contributor in this world to fill the vacuum that I feel exists by adhering to a standard of morality and principles that applies equally everywhere to add to its physical strength. I think all of us hope and pray that this will be the case.

[Reporter] You speak of a vacuum existing. What is that vacuum? What do you mean by that?

[King Husayn] Well, there are double standards obviously as we've seen them in this part of the world and in other areas as well of dealing with problems. It is a time to look back to principles and ideals and apply them equally wherever a problem exists. This is a source of great strength.....

[Reporter interrupting] Are you referring here particularly to principles of self-determination?

[King Husayn] Self-determination is one of them, of course, the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, the preamble of Security Council Resolution 242. The problem here is very simple: Territory for peace, total withdrawal for total peace. But unfortunately we haven't been able to attain it and in point of fact no realities have been created on the ground that are almost certain to deny us a chance.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you have sought, sometimes unsuccessfully, in the past to purchase arms in the United States. And some of your failures in this respect, I am sure, have contributed to your disappointment in our country. As you look ahead, do you see arms requirements that our country ought to be in a position to satisfy here, and that as you get further along in this peace process, your own military may need to be strengthened?

[Husayn] It obviously needs to be strengthened regardless. We are in a rather difficult situation in this part of the world. We have a role that we have played always in trying to enhance stability, beyond our borders as well, and security. But our own needs are vital for self-defense. Beyond that we have never closed the door towards purchase of equipment from the United States, and the relationship that has existed between us over the years has been one that we would have wished to have maintained. It was only when we saw the situation that we felt was intolerable in terms of the denial of what we believe and feel is needed for our legitimate self-defense, or humiliating conditions affecting the country and its Armed Forces that we could not accept. I hope that this will not continue to persist in the future and that somehow we can look at what is possible and continue to have that relationship with the United States that we had in the past.

[Reporter] Meanwhile, you have turned to the Soviet Union for some arms purchases. Are these very substantial in the overall equation of things here within your military?

[Husayn] They are not all that substantial, but they are vital to cover some of our requirements in terms of our defense. And at the same time we have a relationship ongoing with many of our friends in Europe, and we are trying to look everywhere.

There is a policy that we have evolved to try to diversify in terms of the sources of supplies for our military, and we are trying to adhere to that.

[Reporter] Libya and Syria are aligned to some extent with Iran. What sort of threat does Iran and the radical Islamic fundamentalism that it represents pose to this region?

[Husayn] It poses a danger I suppose in one respect, and the possibility of its succeeding in this war does not mean a near military victory but it means a division that would destroy not only, heaven forbid, Iraq, but will also affect the entire area. And it cause greater fragmentation and greater tragedies than what we have seen in Lebanon already.

[Reporter] There is a debate in the United States as to how aggressive we ought to be in going to the source of terrorism, in responding to terrorist attacks.

[Husayn] What is happening unfortunately is that each country or nation seems to respond to a certain threat or a certain situation individually. I think that there should be greater cooperation amongst us or amongst the majority of us in this world who are threatened, and not only threatened but who have a certain feeling about what terror is and are desirous of stopping it, to act together to try to stop it from happening.

[Reporter] You Majesty, you are the senior leader in the Arab world, really you are the senior leader in the world. What special role do you believe you have as king of this country and with the seniority that you possess in providing leadership in this region and beyond?

[Husayn] It is not really a responsibility, it is a hope first of all that I would somehow, before it is all over, be able to contribute even minutely, if that is possible, towards creating a better future for generations to come. Peace, justice, stability in the area. This is really my objective and only cause of my existence and the only hope that I have and aspire to contribute for in any form or way I can.

[Reporter] To what do you attribute your extraordinary survival in this job you hold and in this part of the world? You have been king for three decades. You have survived multiple assassination attempts, civil wars, regional conflicts. You look fit. You're obviously still in command and effective. To what do you attribute your ability to stay on your feet and in forward motion?

[Husayn] With God's help. Beyond that, my belief always that we are all passing phasses. But the nation to which I belong is to stay and is to remain and I have always sought to be able to live with myself and to be honest with myself and with people, whether they liked it or didn't, over the many years. And in time this has produced some form of credibility that has enabled me to serve Jordan and probably the Arab world most successfully. But again, it has not been survival for the sake of survival that we have sought for ourselves, but survival to be able to contribute something for the future, a different life to that that we have had to live and endure; a more stable, more dignified life with justice and peace for this entire area. And I hope somehow I can contribute towards that, and maybe we will be remembered well after we are no more.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you visit the United States periodically. Do you have any plans to visit the United States any time soon?

[Husayn] I hope very very much indeed to be able to visit the United States before too long. I don't have any definite plans at the moment, but probably within a matter of the next 3 months I will be able to visit America again.

[Reporter] Meanwhile, our president will be receiving several other leaders from the Arab world and from the moderate axis here. Are you hopeful that they may help fix the attention of our administration to this region in time for it to do you some good?

[Husayn] Well, on the Palestinian scene and regarding Jordan, we hope that we can put together our thoughts and ideas to present them to our brethren, the Arab leaders, who are visiting Washington.

And hopefully they can take these thoughts to the United States and we will keep in very close touch with them and I hope that their visit will contribute towards improvement, not only in relations, but in vision and determination to move ahead for the attainment of our common objectives.

[Reporter] Are you hopeful in this respect that a second Reagan administration, freed from some of the constraints, at least at the front end of it, of electoral politics in the United States, may be more able, domestically and politically, to be helpful to you here?

[Husayn] I am very hopeful, sir, of that and for many reasons. But I really hope that this will be the case. We don't have much time. The problem is as acute as it has ever been. The chance will not be with us for very much longer. There are many developments in the area and in the world that seem to leave us a chance. I hope we'll all take it.

[Reporter] The administration itself seems to be touching base with the Soviet Union on the Middle East, comparing notes, at any rate, about respective interests.

Does this fit with your sense of how things should go in the next stage, that is, that in some respects the Soviet Union ought to be more involved in the destiny of this region?

[Husayn] The Soviet Union is in the region and the reestablishment of a dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union was inevitable in my view. I believe it is a very healthy development. When we look into the future we hope that all will contribute towards the establishment of a just and durable peace in this area. We would like certainly to see others involved, if that's at all possible, possibly the five permanent members of the Security Council, because we would not like to have a situation, quite frankly, where you have two superpowers looking after the interests of two sides to a conflict.

We have always been against polarization in this area, but nonetheless, we hope that this wouldn't happen even if the two superpowers were alone involved in providing the umbrella for progress towards the establishment of peace.

Ideally, the Security Council and the United Nations should be involved, as well with all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, in trying to resolve the cause of war.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Your Majesty.

House Speaker Confers With U.S. Ambassador

JN291237 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Amman — 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives, received U.S. Ambassador Paul Boeker today. Al-Fayiz reviewed developments in the Middle East in general and in the Palestinian issue in particular. He asserted the need to find a just and permanent solution in the region — a solution that will regain the Palestinian people's rights. He also asserted Jordan's adherence to UN Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for a just and peaceful settlement and for the principle of land in exchange for peace in any proposal.

Al-Fayiz reviewed Jordan's viewpoint on the call for an international peace conference under UN supervision and with the participation of all parties to conflict.

He also explained Israeli practices against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories — practices aimed at seizing their land by force in order to displace them from their homeland.

The speaker of the House of Representatives urged the United States to adopt a serious stand in order to achieve a just and permanent peace in the region.

He said: The Arab world is not convinced of the credibility of U.S. stands toward the Arab nation, because Washington is the only side in the world capable of limiting Israeli intransigence and stopping Israel's tampering with the fate of the region.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the Jordanian House of Representatives and the U.S. Congress and ways of bolstering them.

Participation in Cairo Book Fair Denied

JN290910 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 85 p 2

[By Salamah B. Na'mat]

[Excerpt] Amman — Director General of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) Ahmad Sharkas denied Monday a report that Jordan has participated in the Egyptian Book exhibition currently held in Cairo.

Commenting on an Israeli radio report claiming Jordan has participated in the book fair in which Israel was allowed to exhibit, Dr. Sharkas said "our boycott of Israel is still valid and we do not have a normalisation of relations with Israel like Egypt."

He dismissed as "baseless" the news of the Kingdom's participation.

However, he said that there are some Jordanian publishers who participated in the book fair "but these will be penalised," Dr. Sharkas said, adding that they participated without a permission from the DLDNA or the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, the controlling body of such events.

Tribalism in Administration Criticized

JN281635 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jan 85 p 24

["Seven Days" column by Dr 'Abdallah al-Khatib: "We Applaud Abolition of Tribalism in Administration"]

[Text] We applaud enacting a law that will abolish the tribal laws. Our applause will be even longer when we enact a law abolishing the application of tribal thought in our institutions; and our applause will not stop when we enact a law that would punish those who apply tribal concepts in our establishments.

Our institutions are our only means of organizing our administration, promoting the march of our developments, and serving our people efficiently and effectively. The institution that we are talking about cannot grow and prosper except through specific requirements that are within the framework of respecting laws and regulations and by affirming the role of the leadership, which is supposed to have emanated from the feudal and tribal mind.

It is not possible for tribal concepts and administrative concepts to coexist side by side. If tribal concepts take the upper hand, they will eliminate administrative concepts. In fact, the presence of any of them will cancel the other. It is futile to think that it is possible to bring both under the roof of the establishment. They are poles apart, like right and wrong, the truth and the lie, law and crime. The two cannot coexist. If the tribal concepts infiltrate the establishment, they will wreck it. If we confine our concept of a department to its structure, the number of its staff, and its furniture, without dealing with its spirit, we will have reached the stage of the sick department — a stage that begins with the grocery and ends with the farm.

The fact of the matter is that the fall of the establishment of tribalism is a very simple thing because it is connected with the head of this establishment and his practices. The number of black spots that result from tribal thought in many public departments is really worthy of our attention. It even provokes wonder and astonishment. The tribal ideas in these departments are directly proportional to the level of our education — this is very astounding, is it not? True, we believe that education obviates tribal thinking, but the facts are just the opposite. The more educated we are the more we indulge in tribal practices. Why? I do not know.

Even if we suppose that the well-meaning deal with tribal thought in order to use their good offices and resolve differences, we must say that tribal thought in the official departments tends to corrupt relations and undermine the principles that we must uphold and nurture. Any student of the tribal concepts within our departments will realize that the unhealthy phenomena in these departments will certainly prevent any reform or modernization of this apparatus. The good organizational framework, the carefully wrought laws and regulations, the incentives, the changes in the cadre, and the various administrative procedures will be canceled by the head of this department if he is unable to get rid of the concept of the tribe and subscribe to the administrative concept.

To favor Zayd at 'Amr's expense, to bestow privilege on Ayd at Ziyad's expense, to appoint Ahmad instead of Hammudah, to

bypass all the regular steps of appointment for the sake of "our brother," to apply the law to the letter to someone who has no backers in order that another backed person might jump over all kinds of laws and logic, to leave others in the status quo — to mention only a few examples — will not only hinder the march of our administrative development and abort their goals, but will also ruin the march of the entire country.

It was said in the past: In order to undermine an establishment, all you need is an official who thinks in line with his tribe; but when you decide to build an establishment, all you need is an official who thinks in line with his establishment. If we want the march of administrative reform to succeed, we must stop this disease, which, if it becomes rampant, will undermine all our efforts at modernization and development in the administrative system — a development that has become a national demand. This administrative march must take into consideration that all the good efforts and aspirations will be wiped out by an official who is unable to take off his tribe's garb before assuming his administrative office.

A final but necessary word. We realize that these practices occur because there is no system that demands such officials to account for their practices. When we decide that tribalism in administration is punishable by law, then and only then will we be able to place our march on the right path; and then and only then will we be able to applaud nonstop.

TIMES Laments Reduction in UNRWA Donations

JN290944 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Palestinians Remain the Victims"]

[Text] Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Olof Rydbeck, in an interview with the *JORDAN TIMES* published earlier this week, said that a number of the agency's local and international employees will inevitably lose their jobs in an austerity plan to be adopted for maintaining the current level of services to the Palestinian refugees. Mr. Rydbeck, who has already reported UNRWA's financial position to the U.N. and the head office in Vienna, said that the number of local teachers will have to be reduced and some posts in the administration will have to be axed in the process. He blamed the current deficit on the poor revenues and contributions received by UNRWA from donor nations, and hoped UNRWA will receive additional funds to avert more drastic actions in the future.

Mr. Rydbeck's statement comes on the heels of a meeting held in Tunis recently by representatives of Arab countries hosting the Palestinian refugees. That meeting had failed to find a successful method for resolving the basic problem and to put an end to a perceived reduction by UNRWA of its services to the refugees.

For Mr. Rydbeck, the only solution that could be found for the problem is to cut spending as much as possible while hoping that donor nations would increase their contributions to the agency.

For the Arab countries hosting refugees, there had to be something which they could do in view of the situation, but all that they did in Tunis was to issue an appeal to Mr. Rydbeck to tour countries hosting the refugees for discussions with their leaders on ways to avert further deterioration in the situation.

In fact, the Arab countries hosting the refugees are in an unenviable position, and their options are very limited. They are faced with the fact that European nations have, for some reason or another, lost their zeal in contributing more and more every year for UNRWA's services.

They have no hope from the Eastern bloc countries that have never contributed anything to UNRWA on the pretext that the tragedy of the Palestinians has been caused by the West which alone should shoulder its consequences. The rich Arab countries believe that if they have to shoulder the burden, UNRWA's future budget will be placed squarely on their shoulders and the agency will be transformed into a purely Arab agency for financing the services of the refugees, thereby absolving the West from any responsibility towards the Palestinians and towards finding a just solution for their problem.

This is the situation as it stands now: More difficulties for the Arab countries hosting refugees, and for UNRWA which has been offering services to them over the past 35 years.

But the Palestinian refugees themselves are left to face a grim future, with no land, no services, and no hopes for a better future.

Briefs

FRG, Indonesian Ambassadors Received— Amman, 26 Jan (PETRA) — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received in his office at noon today FRG Ambassador Dr (Hervik Bartilz), who presented a copy of his credentials as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of his country to the Royal Hashemite Court. The minister also received Dr Zainul Yasni, ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, who presented a copy of his credentials as ambassador extraordinary and pleniopotentiary of his country to the Royal Hashemite Court. [Text] [*Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jan 85 JN*]

New Ambassador to Italy— Amman (PETRA) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday approving a Cabinet decision to appoint Mr. Tariq Madi as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Italy. Mr Madi was previously serving as director of the protocol department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Text] [*Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jan 85 JN*]

Kidnapped U.S. Diplomat Shown on British TV

NC290738 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] British television has carried a film showing William Buckley, the U.S. diplomat kidnapped in West Beirut 10 months ago. Buckley, who was shown holding a Lebanese newspaper from the 22d of January, said: My friends Jeremy Levin and Benjamin Weir and I are in good health. We ask our government to work for our release.

The 1-minute film clip gave no information about Lawrence Jenco and Peter Kilburn, who disappeared in West Beirut last December.

KUNA: Lahd's Car Blown Up in Resistance Attack

LD291141 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Beirut, 29 Jan (KUNA) — The National Lebanese Resistance Front announced today that its elements have overcome all Israeli guard posts and have attacked the "arch agent" Antoine Lahd.

In a telephone call to KUNA, the front said that blowing the car of Brigadier General Antoine Lahd, commander of the pro-Israel south Lebanon army, off the road with explosives this morning at the border town of Marj 'Uyun, is a lesson to all collaborators with Israel so that they will understand that "the arm of the resistance can get to them and punish them wherever they hide." The front added, "despite the hundreds of Israeli road blocks and other militia barricades, we have managed to get to Lahd."

Preliminary information received by the Lebanese security sources said that the car of the commander of the militia, an olive green Mercedes 220, was blown to smithereens and another military vehicle of the militias, a Range Rover escorting Lahd's car, caught fire. Nothing is known for sure whether Antoine Lahd himself was in the car when it was blown up. He usually uses this car to travel to his headquarters at Marj 'Uyun.

This is the third attempt of its kind against the life of Lahd within a year. He escaped death on two previous occasions when several of his supporters were killed.

Few reports have come from Marj 'Uyun. But it is said that the town has been surrounded by Israeli tanks and mechanized units since the bold operation, which was taken as an indication of "something serious" taking place there. All the Israeli and militia positions have been placed on maximum alert and have been firing at passersby.

ASL Denies Attack

NC291212 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The official spokesman for the army of south Lebanon [ASL] command has denied reports carried by some media that the vehicle used by Staff Major General Antoine Lahd was the target of an explosion, a result of which Lahd's aide was wounded. The spokesman added that these reports are untrue and without foundation, and are the result of a malicious rumor.

Resistance Front Denies Operations Abroad

NC281551 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front denied that it has carried out operations outside Lebanese territories. It stressed that its operations are aimed at the Israeli forces and their agents.

Al-Huss Envoy, Others Go To Damascus

NC271544 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text][Former] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss sent his adviser Faruq al-Barbir to Damascus to brief Syrian officials and Minister Walid Junblatt on the reasons for his resignation.

Former Minister Marwan Hamadah and Akram Shuhayyib also left for Damascus within the framework of the ongoing efforts to deal with Prime Minister al-Huss' resignation.

Further on Al-Huss Resignation, Economic Situation

Economy, Currency Measures Approved

NC271842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] In addition to the contacts that have been held to study the issue of Dr al-Huss' resignation from the government, the attention of the officials was today focused on dealing with the economic situation. Instead of the Cabinet session that was scheduled for today, a series of contacts took place among President Amin al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Minister of State Nabih Birri, Bank of Lebanon Governor Dr Edmon Na'im, the deputy governors, and the banks association in Lebanon. Several meetings were held to discuss the measures that could be taken. Several measures have been agreed upon to deal with the economic situation. The measures will be adopted by the Bank of Lebanon, the Finance Ministry, and the banks association. There will be no need to revert to the Cabinet.

Official sources said that the approved measures are designed to maintain the status of the Lebanese pound and stabilize the exchange rates of foreign currencies.

Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, told the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY this evening that as a result of his continuous consultations since this morning with President Al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami, agreement has been reached on a series of measures to be taken by the Bank of Lebanon as of Monday, to bolster the Lebanese pound and the free economy, to maintain economic freedom, and to check speculation on the dollar and the harm to the Lebanese economy.

The board of directors of the Banks Association in Lebanon held an emergency meeting today under the chairmanship of Antoine Shadir to deal with the economic situation.

Karami on Al-Huss Resignation

NC280835 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The concerted efforts of a number of individuals and leaders, as well as the contacts between Beirut and Damascus, have resulted in persuading Minister Dr Salim al-Huss to attend the Cabinet's extraordinary session, which will be held at 1700 today on the eve of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's visit to Damascus.

A plenary meeting of ministers is expected to be held in Government House at noon today under the chairmanship of Rashid Karami. 'Adil 'Usayran, Al-Huss, and Nabih Birri are also expected to attend the session, which will examine ways of achieving positive results at the Cabinet meeting.

Dr al-Barbir visited Minister al-Huss at 2000 yesterday, and accompanied him to Mufti Khalid's residence for an Islamic plenary meeting. The session was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker al-Husayni and Prime Minister Karami. The meeting began at 2100 and ended at 0010. During the meeting, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam telephoned Karami and Al-Huss to discuss recent developments in the political, security, and economic fields.

It was agreed that Prime Minister Karami will visit Damascus tomorrow to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

The participants, under the chairmanship of Mufti Khalid, discussed the reasons for Minister al-Huss' resignation. Dr Husayn al-Quwwatli, director general of the mufti's office, joined the meeting after some political and religious contacts with Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, and with Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra, leader of the Druze community.

Dr al-Quwwatli released this statement after the session: Following the meeting chaired by Mufti Khalid and attended by Prime Minister Karami, Speaker al-Husayni, Minister al-Huss, Taqiy al-Din al-Sulh, former Ministers Nasib al-Barbir and Malik Salam, and after a discussion of Minister al-Huss' resignation, Prime Minister Karami had this to say: We met at the home of Mufti Khalid and discussed the general situation in light of Dr Salim al-Huss' resignation, which we rejected. While we share the views and concerns which led him to resign, we consider ourselves in agreement regarding all the practical measures and solutions to be pursued as a means of fulfilling the function for which the government was established.

He added: When the government of national unity was formed, we decided that our responsibility would be collective, and that no one would be allowed to leave the government on his own. It was obvious that our joint entry into the government demands that we either continue jointly or leave jointly. On this basis, we agreed at the meeting to continue working on the national task we have shouldered. We agreed that the Cabinet will hold an extraordinary session at 1700 on Monday to deal with economic issues.

Al-Huss, Birri on 'Appraisal' Meeting

NC281530 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1325 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] An appraisal meeting was held at government house today at 1330 chaired by Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Ministers Dr Salim al-Huss and Nabih Birri, as well as Malik Salam attended the meeting which ended 15 minutes ago. The conferees reviewed the necessary steps to confront the economic situation. These steps must be approved during the Cabinet's special session which will begin at 1700.

After the meeting, Al-Huss answered reporters' questions:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Could you tell us about the latest developments after the meeting at the home of his eminence the mufti yesterday, and after your meeting with Prime Minister Karami today?

[Al-Huss] Following the meeting held yesterday at the house of his eminence the mufti of the republic, Prime Minister Karami announced his rejection of the resignation I submitted 2 days ago. I naturally accepted his rejection, and thanked him for his solidarity with me and for his confidence in me. This stand is the result of extensive consultations and contacts that took place yesterday, and which culminated in the meeting held at the home of his eminence the mufti of the republic. In addition to Prime Minister Karami, this meeting was attended by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, former Prime Minister Taqiyy al-Din al-Sulh, Dr Nasib al-Barbr, and Malik Salam. It was a good occasion during which all issues were reviewed in detail. There has been a lengthy discussion of all the current concerns and developments. We discussed all the issues that concern and worry us as officials and citizens. All these topics were dealt with frankly and were given the necessary attention and care. We agreed on a joint view on the need to deal with all these matters as one working group inside the government. We implore God to grant us success in finding the required solutions to these issues that affect the life of the citizens in an unbearable manner.

[Unidentified reporter] We understand from what you have said that following the quick political developments, there is a new outlook about action in the coming stage.

[Al-Huss] We can say that there is a resumption of activities. Naturally, we have to consult among ourselves if we realize at any time that we are not making progress at the speed required. This was an occasion to reappraise the issues affecting us, and to review all the issues causing concern to the citizens with the hope of emerging with new ways and means to deal with them in the interests of the future, particularly because we are facing deadlines which we must confront daily. Naturally, the greatest deadline is the expected Israeli evacuation from parts of the south. Israel announced its intention to take this step long ago, but it has not yet implemented it. However, this step is expected

to be taken at any moment. We, in our official capacity, must be ready to confront the situation in a responsible way guaranteeing the soundness of the operation and a safe situation in the area of Sidon from which Israel will vacate. We must also be ready to do so on the basis of our awareness of our responsibility of dealing with this vital, historic, and important step.

There are naturally other deadlines in addition to this important deadline, such as confronting the economic and social situation that is sweeping the country, and from which citizens at all levels are suffering. There is an inflation crisis that is affecting prices and unemployment. The number of unemployed has increased and productivity centers are idle. We must do whatever we can to reactivate these centers. The economic and social situation is deteriorating. This requires quick action by all of us as officials in the government. Naturally, we must continue to watch the security situation everywhere in Lebanon, particularly in Beirut, because security in Beirut is the target of our enemies. Our enemy realizes that security in Beirut predetermines security anywhere in Lebanon. We do not believe that it is possible to establish more security in an area outside Beirut itself, because Beirut is the source of the security decision.

Consequently, any effective security move should start in Beirut. It is unlikely, for example, that a security force would leave Beirut in a certain condition and reach another area in Lebanon in a better condition. On the basis of our appreciation of this reality, we believe that the security of Beirut has become a comprehensive national responsibility to which the security of all areas is connected. From this premise, we continue to be vigilant and to develop the means and ways inside and outside the government to improve the situation in Beirut and to arrive at a situation under which we can speak about the daily tranquillity and stability which all citizens cherish.

[Unidentified reporter] A last question regarding the economic situation. It has been reiterated that you will preside over an economic body. Can we [words indsitinct] the citizen?

[Al-Huss] This is premature. [end recording]

Minister Birri then said:

[Begin recording] [Birri] The fact is that I do not want to add anything to what Minister al-Huss said. All I want to say is that I appreciate the motives that prompted Al-Huss to tender his resignation or draft resignation. I consider it a personal resignation. I also appreciate the motives that prompted Al-Huss to decide to return to the government and to suffer again. The motto of the current stage has become clear to people — liberation, security, and a loaf of bread. We are in dire need for Al-Huss to deal with these three matters.

[Unidentified reporter] Regarding the south, do you have new information about the first stage of the withdrawals?

[Birri] No. Israel and the Israeli forces and their vehicles are still there waiting for the appropriate opportunity to withdraw. All the information we have indicates that they have done everything necessary on the ground to withdraw, but that they are waiting for a certain moment believing that it is possible to cause sedition in southern Lebanon. We maintain the view that the vigilance of the south will save the southerners, God willing.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you have any information about the date of reopening the Sidon-Beirut road?

[Birri] This question could be raised at the Cabinet's special session today despite the fact that this session is devoted to economic affairs. This step was supposed to be taken last Thursday. There is no reason to keep the road closed, as far as the Lebanese side is concerned. [end recording]

Special Cabinet Session Ends

NC282044 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1925 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Dispatch by unidentified radio correspondent at the Presidential Palace in B'abda — live]

[Text] The special Cabinet session ended approximately 15 minutes ago. Prime Minister Karami spoke to reporters as he emerged from the palace. He said that the Cabinet has decided to convene a conclave under the chairmanship of the president, and in the presence of the ministers concerned and economic personalities to deal with the economic situation. The following is a recording of Prime Minister Karami's statement:

[Begin recording] [Karami] In view of the ferocious campaign being launched against Lebanon by casting doubts on Lebanon's free system, on its adherence to the freedom of the transfer of currency, and on bank confidentiality, it behooves us to reaffirm, with all clarity, our total adherence to the free economic order and to all its components and supports.

If those who lie in wait for Lebanon have failed in their armed war against it, we will not then enable them to achieve their objective in their economic war. We hope that the press and information media are aware of this reality, and that they will abide by the truth and be objective, and will not be part of what serves the aims of those who lie in wait for this country and its economy.

The Cabinet confirms its previous decisions and reaffirms that it will seek to secure the Treasury's rights represented in customs, water, electricity, telephone, and other fees. It will adhere to the policy of austerity. There must be concentration on the consolidation of security, particularly in Beirut. It is useful to recall here that the gold cover has not been touched. The Development and Reconstruction Council will be permitted to speed up the borrowing process in light of the offers made by several foreign states. The IMF will be asked to send a technical mission to study the economic conditions and to propose the solutions it deems appropriate.

The various economic sectors will be reactivated and assisted with a view to increasing production. The current contacts with the Arab states will be intensified to secure previously approved aid. The solutions included in the memorandum of the Banks Association will be approved. The follow-up committee assigned by the Cabinet will intensify its meetings to follow up the

implementation of the measures adopted. An invitation will be sent out within 2 weeks to attend a socioeconomic conclave at the Presidential Palace, to be attended by the ministers concerned as well as by economic and labor personalities, to appraise the steps taken and to propose the necessary steps for the coming stages.

[Unidentified reporter] Regarding the security situation in Beirut, were any new measures adopted today?

[Karami] This issue was discussed. It is known that there is some misunderstanding about the removal of old bunkers and barricades. All have pledged to devote their time to finding the right solution to solve these issues as soon as possible.

[Unidentified reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Karami] Arrangements have been made with the approval of the Security Arrangements Committee regarding this road [not further identified]. The major part of what has been agreed upon has been implemented. If some details have not been implemented, then they are constantly being followed up with a view to implementing them. We can say for certain that the situation regarding this road is not bad. [end recording]

French Observers To Deploy on Coastal Road
NC281530 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee has been told that the French Government approves the deployment of French observers all along the coastal road, and approves of the proposal by Colonel Susini [commander of the French observers] to set up three observation posts along the road.

The committee met today and discussed the obstacles still preventing the continued implementation of the security plan for the coastal road and Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Phalangists Call for Reopening Coastal Road
NC290727 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir, commander of the Lebanese Forces, said that the return of the south to Lebanon means there is a hope for rebuilding all of Lebanon. He expressed his readiness to accompany Ministers Birri and Junblatt to Iqlim al-Kharrub to assess the implementation of the security plan there.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces have called for completing the reopening of the coastal highway as far as Al-Awwali. This will allow the Army to reach the south to fill any vacuum resulting from the Israeli withdrawal. The Lebanese Forces also praised Minister Birri, who condemned the shelling of eastern areas.

Phalangist Leader Comments on Security Plan
NC290959 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The Lebanese Front held a meeting today under former President Camille Sham'un. After the meeting, Phalange Party leader Elie Karamah said that the Lebanese Forces have complied with the security plan for the Al-Kharrub region, while Junblatt's gunmen are still deployed along the coastal road, particularly in Al-Na'imah. The Lebanese Forces oppose this. Dr Karamah stressed the need to implement the security plan in full so that the Lebanese Army can take over those areas evacuated by the Lebanese Forces.

PSP Official Interviewed on Current Developments
NC281813 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] In an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine *AL-TALI'AH*, Muhsin Dallul, deputy leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has stressed that Walid Junblatt's attendance of the Cabinet sessions depends on the consolidation of security and on convincing some people to desist from assassination attempts and terrorism. Political coordination between Junblatt on the one hand, and Dr Salim al-Huss and Nabih Birri on the other, is now at its best. The PSP leader has entrusted Al-Huss and Birri to take the appropriate stand in his absence from the Cabinet sessions, even on very critical and sensitive issues.

As to the question of liberation, Dallul said that the task of liberation from the Israeli occupation is not a sectarian or a partisan task, but is rather a general one that encompasses all the nationalists in Lebanon and the Arab world. The government has to support the Lebanese people's uprising which is constantly being rejuvenated by the operations of the Lebanese National Resistance Front.

Al-Murabitun Discusses Cooperation With Palestinians
NC271455 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The brother members of the Higher Central Political Council of the independent Nasirite movement — Al-Murabitun received a delegation representing the Political Command of the Palestinian National Alliance in Beirut. During the meeting they discussed the current political and security conditions. The two sides stressed the need to continue confronting the challenges facing the Lebanese nationalist areas, particularly West Beirut.

The two sides also agreed to work to effectively confront the hostile plans being prepared by the Zionist enemy and his agents in the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab arenas, as well as the plans being prepared by the Camp David forces, led by the Egyptian and Jordanian regimes. The two sides stressed the need to continue the practical cooperation between the Palestinian National Alliance and the independent Nasirite movement — Al-Murabitun as part of the strategic alliance between them. They also agreed to continue their meetings on all levels.

Birri Requests Legal Action Against Lahd

NC280725 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri sent a letter to Public Prosecutor Shaykh Camille Ja'ja' yesterday requesting that the judicial department take legal action against Antoine Lahd on the grounds that he cooperated with the Israeli enemy.

A meeting on this issue was held at the Palace of Justice between Ja'ja' and Fawzi Daghir, the government's commissioner to the military court. Fawzi Daghir received a copy of Minister Birri's letter, and was asked to conduct the appropriate investigation.

Samahah Assumes Duties as TV Chairman

NC281246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpt] A meeting was held at Government House today between Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Michel Samahah, chairman of the board of directors and director general of the Lebanese Television Company. They discussed a number of subjects relating to the company.

After the meeting, Samahah told reporters that the purpose of his visit was to receive some directives from the prime minister before assuming his duties at the television company today. He added that the media are being unified gradually, and said it would be preferable to have one television newscast instead of two.

After declining to give any details, Samahah said optimistically that this question is being dealt with calmly, and that some positive results may appear shortly.

Michel Samahah later went to the television building, where he assumed his duties from the former chairman, Brigadier General Musa Kan'an. Two ceremonies were held for this purpose in the Tallat al-Khayyat and Al-Hazimiay buildings.

USSR's Salimov Makes Statement, Departs 28 Jan

JN281442 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 28 Jan (SANA) — The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Akil Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, left Damascus for home this afternoon after an 8-day visit to Syria. The delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi, some members from the speaker's office, the chairmen of the People's Assembly committees, Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Felix Fedotov, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Salimov described his visit to Syria as fruitful and successful. He said the visit asserted the strong friendship between the two countries, the two peoples, and the two councils.

Salimov said: The delegation had pleasant and unforgettable impressions of its meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. Our talks with the president were of mutual concern for both our friendly countries. We reiterated that the USSR will always remain firmly at the side of Syria in its just struggle against imperialism and Zionism, and that the Soviet people, the CPSU, and the USSR Government highly appreciate this struggle.

The deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium added: We asserted to the president that we in the USSR highly praise the Arab Syrian people's courage under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, their persistent struggle, and their great sacrifices for construction and liberation. We also reiterated our support for this brave struggle.

Salimov said: Our talks with President Hafiz al-Asad dealt with topics of mutual interest. We congratulated the president on his reelection as secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee and on the election of the Central Committee and the Regional Command of the Party. We expressed to his excellency our hope that efforts being exerted to achieve the tasks and objectives drawn up by the eighth regional congres of the Party will succeed. These tasks and objectives will make Syria stronger and more prosperous. Salimov asserted that the meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was very useful. He asserted the identity of viewpoints and opinions on all topics reviewed.

The deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium thanked the Syrian People's Assembly and its speaker, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, for giving them this opportunity to make this splendid and constructive visit through which the delegation was able to become acquainted with the life of the Arab Syrian people and the stages they achieved in their struggle for construction and liberation.

People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi asserted that the fruitful and constructive visit of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation has greatly contributed to entrenching ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and councils. He expressed hope that the delegation will convey his greetings and those of the People's Assembly to the comrade chairman and members of the USS Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Lebanon's Karami Arrives, Makes Statement 29 Jan

NC291218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Dispatch by National Information Agency Correspondent Ma'ruf Daw from Damascus — recorded]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rashid Karami arrived at Damascus International Airport aboard a Lebanese military helicopter at 1005 today. He was accompanied by the Cabinet Secretary General Shafiq Munayminah and Army Intelligence Chief Brigadier General Simon Qassis. He was welcomed by Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. A girl presented Karami with a bouquet of flowers. After the band played the Lebanese and Syrian national anthems, and after Prime Minister Karami greeted those present, both prime ministers went by official motorcade to the Sheraton Hotel, where Karami will be staying. A brief meeting, attended by Munayminah and Qassis, and by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for Syria, was held soon after.

At the hotel, Prime Minister Karami discussed the substance of his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials. He said:

[Begin recording] [Karami] It is natural to say that Syria and Lebanon are sister countries having common interests and sharing the same destiny. Therefore, on the basis of this historical reality, it must be said that we have an ongoing duty to consult one another. For this reason, and in light of the times through which we are passing and the priorities which we face, we must hold such meetings at the highest level. Lebanon's current circumstances are well known. Thus, we confirm our national positions, the goals of which are to liberate the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya, and to consolidate security in various parts of Lebanon while introducing reforms and reconstruction.

We all realize that our economic difficulties are one more part of the continuous plot against us. However, we place great hopes in the unity of the Lebanese people, in our official positions, and in the framework of serious cooperation and efforts made at all levels to consolidate the march for salvation, liberation, reconstruction, and reform. All this makes me repeat my optimism. I am more optimistic today than ever before, as there are several signs which allow us to say that the coming days, weeks, and months will be coupled with stability and reassurance. They will also bring the beginning of the march toward liberation, which Israel was forced to declare unilaterally on its own responsibility. This is helpful, not harmful. We believe that the enemy who attacked our land and all things sacred to our people will undoubtedly pay the price. Israeli officials, led by the defense minister, view Lebanon as a swamp in which their ambitions and plans to suppress us have sunk.

However, the heroic national resistance, which defends the dignity of Lebanon and the Arabs, makes us certain that the withdrawal will be conducted as soon as possible, and that there is no need to fear the tension and sedition which Israel is attempting to sow in our country. The spirit of patriotism and resistance in everyone's heart confirms the fact that all Lebanese

are conscious and sincere in their goals and march. This will foil every enemy plan to create disturbances and to sow sedition.

My visit to fraternal Syria follows the conclusion of the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the promulgation of its resolutions. These, in turn, will undoubtedly contribute toward moving the Syrian position in the directions planned thanks to the conscious leadership of His Excellency President Lieutenant General Hafiz al-Asad, who has been unanimously nominated to continue the fight and march toward liberation throughout the entire Arab world.

We are constantly prepared to benefit from His Excellency President al-Asad's correct views and mature thinking. He has great experience and has taken various pioneering positions. This endows Syria with its proper standing in the hearts of all Arabs, while also rendering it a source of hope.

We share this historic decision with the Syrian people; it permits the nation's general action to be guided by the leadership of the struggling president, whom we wish constant good health and success in securing the Arabs' welfare and pursuing their glory.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr prime minister, it is well known that UN envoy Brian Urquhart's tour included Damascus. It is also known that the Al-Naqurah talks have been suspended until a later date. Are Lebanon and Syria engaged in any coordination in defining the terms of UNIFIL's presence following Israel's withdrawal?

[Karami] Since we agree upon both principles and goals, it is only natural that we act in continuing coordination. Lebanon and Syria do this because their interests and future are the same, and because they have the same enemy. In fact, we have acted in the Al-Naqurah talks on the basis of firm principles, which we will never forsake. These principles are: No to Lahd's forces, and no to the UNIFIL forces north of the Litani River. We agree to UNIFIL's presence only on the international border that separates us from the enemy. All of the talks that have taken place have not gone beyond these established limits. Our views and those of fraternal Syria are in full accord, as are our policies, which are predicated upon our country's sovereignty and our people's interests. [end recording]

Karami Meets With Al-Asad

NC291220 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The official talks between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami began some 45 minutes ago at the Al-Muhajirin Palace in Damascus, in the presence of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The talks, which will be interrupted by a working luncheon, will focus on Israel's anticipated withdrawal from Sidon.

A little while ago, the Information Ministry team that is accompanying Prime Minister Karami sent us the following dispatch on the talks, which were preceded by a meeting between Karami and Khaddam and another between Karami and Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm. Here is a dispatch from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY reporter who is accompanying Karami:

[Begin recording] The official talks between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Karami began in the presidential palace in Al-Muhajirin about 45 minutes ago, in the presence of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. These talks were preceded by preliminary talks between Prime Minister Karami and Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at the Syrian Cabinet. After that, Karami proceeded to Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's office, where he held a 30-minute meeting. At 1245 Beirut time, Karami and Khaddam left for the Al-Muhajirin Palace to meet President Al-Asad. The meeting, which is going on as of the time of this dispatch, will be interrupted by a working luncheon.

In addition to Lebanon's official actions in Damascus, the Syrian capital has been witnessing activity by leading Lebanese figures: Members of the Lebanese National Democratic Front led by Minister Walid Junblatt are holding meetings with a number of Syrian officials. Certain Lebanese National Democratic Front sources have indicated that Prime Minister Karami will meet with front members later this afternoon. This is the Information Ministry team in Damascus. We now return you to the studio in Beirut. [end recording]

Reportage on Visit of SFRY Information Secretary

Rajjuh Confers With Counterpart

JN261302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh received SFRY Federal Secretary of Information Mitke Calovski and his delegation in his office today. Fu'ad Ballat, radio and television director general, attended the meeting. The two sides discussed ways to promote and develop relations in the field of information, exchange expertise and press delegations, and strengthen cooperation between the two countries' news agencies, radios, and televisions. The talks also dealt with the current international situation, the Nonaligned Movement countries, and Syria's prominent and important role in both the Arab and international arenas.

Rajjuh stressed the need to develop cooperation in the field of information and to provide facilities in this regard in order to serve the two countries' joint interests. He also made reference to the recommendations and resolutions of the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which showed special interest in the Nonaligned Movement and in developing Syria's effective role in the Movement.

The SFRY guest minister expressed his country's desire to promote cooperation in the field of information because of Syria's important role both in the Nonaligned Movement and the region. He also called for promoting the existing relations offriendship and cooperation between Syria and the SFRY in various fields.

Deputy Minister Meets Calovski

JN261428 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jan (SANA) — 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received here today SFRY Federal Secretary of Information Miko Calovski and his delegation, currently visiting Syria.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed the outcome of their talks in the fields of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation as contained in the protocol of the fourth session of the joint Syrian-Yugoslav committee. They also reviewed ways to promote these relations in the future, particularly in the sphere of trade exchange and bartering.

Qaddurah welcomed the positive results the two sides had achieved and expressed his confidence in continuing the work to achieve the cooperation protocol contents in the service of the two sides' interests and joint objectives.

Al-Kasm Confers With Calovski

JN261545 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jan (SANA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Mitko Calovski, SFRY federal secretary of information and chairman of the joint Syrian-Yugoslav economic committee, at 1300 today.

Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Yugoslav charge d'affaires in Damascus attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, the SFRY official conveyed greetings from the SFRY prime minister to Dr al-Kasm and expressed his thanks for the hospitality he has been accorded during his visit to the country.

The prime minister was briefed on the talks that the SFRY official is holding with officials in Damascus and which deal with the various aspects of economic cooperation, trade exchange, and bolstering technical cooperation. He expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the talks. The discussion also dealt with a number of subjects related to developing Syrian-SFRY relations in all fields and issues related to the region and to international affairs, particularly with ways to bolster the Nonaligned Movement and promote its effective role on the world level.

At the conclusion of this meeting, Dr al-Kasm asked the SFRY official to convey his greetings to the SFRY prime minister.

Delegation Departs

JN271906 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jan (SANA) — SFRY Federal Secretary of Information Mitko Calovski and his accompanying delegation left Syria this afternoon via Dar'a , south of Syria.

The guest secretary expressed his appreciation for the hospitality he received during his visit to Syria and for the positive results of his talks with the Syrian officials in the economic and information fields to bolster the cooperation between the two friendly countries.

People's Assembly Approves Al-Asad Nomination

JN282106 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly held the second meeting of its fourth extraordinary session at 1800 today under Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, prime minister; Comrade Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the deputies prime minister for services affairs and for economic affairs; and the ministers attended the meeting.

Through the unanimous opinion of its members, the People's Assembly special committee decided to support the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad for the presidency of the Syrian Arab Republic for a presidential term of office that will begin on 13 March 1985. The special committee submitted its report to the chairmanship of the People's Assembly for approval.

The Assembly's decision on the Regional Command's proposal and the special committee's decision for approving the nomination and submitting it to the citizens for a referendum was read. The Assembly unanimously approved the proposal amid stormy applause.

Commentary on Arab Leaders Visits to U.S.

JN281345 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, Washington is getting ready to receive important visitors from the Middle East at the beginning of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's second term. Exchanging visits and opinions among leaders is normal in international relations, particularly, among countries which deal with common issues that call for consultations every now and then. Visits and talks do not necessarily mean that there is agreement or a reason to reach an agreement, especially if the announced stands show that there are big differences in viewpoints which are diffiucit to solve.

Some Arab leaders and officials visited Washington and held talks on the Middle East under different eras and administrations. However, the outcome was always fruitless to the Arabs. All those visits did not succeed in making one simple change in the U.S. stand on the bases of the Middle East crisis. The United States is still, as it has always been, completely biased toward Israel. It still establishes its strategy in the region depending on Israel as an ally, a tool of repression and terrorism against the region's people, and a guard of U.S. interests in the region.

On the basis of this strategic view, the United States believes that its commitment to Israel's presence and security means supporting Israel's military superiority over all Arab countries. The United States also believe that its Mideast policy should be

drawn up in Tel Aviv, thus making the U.S. policy in the region an Israeli policy implemented by the U.S. Administration. All U.S. stands which are hostile to the Arabs and their rights, as well as to the international will and UN resolutions, are based on this U.S. strategic option. Neither Al-Sadat's complete submission and subservience to the United States nor the attempts by some Arab parties to gain U.S. consent succeeded in changing this U.S. option.

It seems that there is no hope of any changes in the basic U.S. stands in the Middle East so long as the Arab situation remains as it is now and so long as the balance of power tips in favor of Israel due to the United States.

Hence, the United States is preparing the environment for its Arab visitors on this basis. Two days ago, U.S. President Regan said he will submit his 1 Septemebr 1982 Middle East plan to the important Arab visitors coming to Washington. The so-called Reagan plan, or suggestions, in fact embody the Camp David accords. The Reagan plan ignores the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, to establish theri national state, and to return to their homeland. The plan also ignores the Arabs right to regain their territory occupied by the Israeli aggression. The plan calls on the Arabs to sit at the negotiations table with Israel in order to bargain with Israel on relinquishing their lands, rights, and dignity.

Unless the Arabs change the balance of power in the region in their favor, they will not be able to introduce new positive factors to the situation in the region — factors that will support the efforts aimed at achieving a just and permanent peace in the Middle East in response to the Arab demands based on the UN Charter and resolutions.

Further on Beersheba Talks on Future of Tabah

28 January Talks Summarized

TA281755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a from the Beersheba Desert Inn Hotel on 28 January — recorded]

[Text] At the end of the 2d day of deliberations, the two delegation heads approached the press all smiles, commenting on the good spirits and atmosphere that prevailed, and the concerted effort made by each party.

However, it does not take much to notice the tension beneath the smiles — which indicates that more matters are disputed than agreed upon. Everyone still refuses to talk about results, and all the Israeli delegation head would say was: We are exchanging formulations on the role of the MFO.

The head of the Egyptian delegation, 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, seemed to reiterate the same message: [Badawi — in English] I only want to qualify one of these ideas, that the formulas that are being exchanged between the two delegations are of a constructive nature, and very useful.

[Barnea translates the above and continues] Yet what are the formulas exchanged between the sides at the negotiating table all about?

Tzvi Qedar, the head of the Israeli delegation, said: [Qedar — in English] We are here to talk about something very concrete. Our terms of reference are defined, and we are talking about certain aspects of the Tabah issue — mainly in connection with the invitation to the MFO to maintain security in the region.

[Barnea translates the above and continues] But did the parties go to such lengths, to come to the capital of the Negev, only to discuss Tabah? As the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said even before this round of negotiations began, the Israeli delegation broached the idea of holding a meeting of police officers from both countries to discuss policing and sailing problems in the Tabah area.

Israel also raised the question of the Rafah refugee camp, as well as the demand for searches to be conducted for the *Daqar* submarine, and the bodies of the 19 Israeli MIA's from the Yom Kippur War.

The Egyptians gave one answer to all these demands: We have not come prepared to discuss these issues; we will notify the Cairo government of them, and we will deal with them through existing diplomatic channels in the near future.

What now? Tomorrow morning the delegations will again present working papers, addressing the issues on which agreement can be found, and those that still remain disputed, with the hope of reaching a situation in which, at the end of the day, it will at least be possible to issue a joint communique to the press.

Peres Halts Lease Renewal

TA290603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] There is no news yet from the talks over Tabah in Beersheba. The meetings will end today and the Egyptians will return to Egypt to consult with Husni Mubarak. There is still no solution, but there might be a hint — we do not yet know the significance of this — in the fact that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has instructed the Israel Land Authority to withhold the renewal of the lease with Rafi Nelson [Israeli hotel owner on Tabah coast].

Delegations Present Working Papers

TA290933 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0919 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] At the Tabah talks in Beersheba, the Egyptian and Israeli delegations presented each other with working papers in which all the disputed and undisputed clauses are stipulated. The fourth session of the talks is scheduled to end at noon, and the fifth and last session will open at 1500.

Shamir Downplays Importance of Tabah Talks

TA281017 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jan 85 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] In an interview on the Arabic language television newscast, Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday that the Tabah conflict has been blown out of proportion by Egypt, and that had Israel been given the opportunity to explain its position in the Egyptian media, as Egypt's charge d'affaires in Israel Muhammad Basyuni was allowed to do, many misunderstandings could have been avoided, because the area concerned is actually small and insignificant in comparison to the 60,000 square km of the Sinai which Israel returned to Egypt.

Shamir also said in this interview that the Beersheba talks should not be seen as a breakthrough in relations with Egypt, but rather as a positive event which could improve and strengthen relations. According to him, the subjects being discussed in Tabah are technical in nature and that therefore no exaggerated hopes should be pinned on these talks. The foreign minister noted however, that any solution agreed to over Tabah will bolster bilateral relations. He noted that the MFO's mandate is not to be a police force. However, the opinions regarding this will be raised during the talks and we must wait and see how things develop.

'Sharp Rise' in Egyptian Tourists Visiting Tabah

TA281040 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jan 85 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] A sharp rise in the number of Egyptian tourists has been registered over the past few days at the Egyptian border terminal in Tabah. Israeli sources report that most of the visitors are

Egyptian school children, Egyptian civilians on organized tours, tourists, as well as soldiers. The sources noted that the visitors come to Tabah out of curiosity and to study the problems of the area; they are told by Egyptian officials that Tabah is an inseparable part of their country. None of the Egyptian tourists has gone on to Elat, and from the Egyptian border they return to Cairo on their buses.

DAVAR Interviews Rabin on Lebanon, Talks in U.S.

TA251850 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Jan 85 p 17

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Tali Zelinger and Tuvya Mendelson on 23 January; place not given]

DAVAR: You toured Lebanon yesterday. Were you pleased with what you saw there?
Rabin: I went to see what is being done and I saw that the Cabinet's decision, demanding the evacuation of that area before 18 February as the first stage, is being carried out well and quickly. As for the soldiers, naturally they are satisfied that they are going to leave. One could also say that the residents of the northern settlements are more worried today, because there has always been a balance between the level of security of the northern residents and the extent of the Army's involvement in Lebanon.

DAVAR: In what way will it be more difficult to protect the Galilee after the withdrawal?
Rabin: In the foreseeable future, it is unlikely that the PLO will resume control of the area, and one of the IDF's tasks will be to prevent this. On the other hand, we do not know what the Shi'ites will do. We do not know if the Shi'ites' hatred is so great that they will extend aid to a more extremist Khomeyniite organization to continue hostile activities against Israel. This is the principal unknown factor with which we will have to cope, in addition to the PLO attempts to return.

DAVAR: The decision on a phased withdrawal has raised fears that the government has allowed for the possible delay in the final withdrawal.
Rabin: We have not presented a timetable for the withdrawal. We are interested in an orderly transfer of the area, and the phases are intended to faciliatate this. We have already learned that it is almost impossible to predict events in Lebanon, and therefore we intend to pace our phased withdrawal with what is actually happening. This is a relevant consideration which the defense establishment has been presented.

DAVAR: If things move smoothly, is it possible that the first phase will be completed prior to 18 February?
Rabin: Theoretically speaking this is possible. We actually wanted to give the Lebanese time to get organized. It is a pity that they are wasting it on nonsense in the Al-Naqurah talks. We have lost 10 days since the decision was made, and instead of discussing how the area can be transferred in an orderly way, we have not even decided to broach this issue. I have the feeling that the United Nations, also, is a little angry. It actually means that [illegible] of the United Nations, which is by 2 days, we will do so. We do not want to be accused of withdrawing too soon for someone to get organized, thus causing chaos.

DAVAR: Can you predict when the final evacuation will take place?
Rabin: In the eastern sector, for instance, we have the logistical problem of winter. We cannot ignore the snow on the Jabal al-Baruk. We have invested much there that we do not want to leave behind. In addition, I do not want to create the impression of an army that is running away in disorder. However, if we had the feeling the area was being properly transferred, no doubt this would accelerate the process.

DAVAR: Would you say then, that the complete withdrawal to the international border could take approximately 1 year?
Rabin: I do not want to specify any deadline, but I do believe that it will take less than 1 year.

DAVAR: Some time ago we believed we could maintain a dialogue with Syria through the United States, but this was proven wrong. Why?
Rabin: Some 3 and 1/2 months ago I made the assessment — based on signals — that the Syrians were willing to reach some agreement concerning security arrangements to enable the IDF to withdraw from Lebanon.

DAVAR: Is that why we went to Al-Naqurah?
Rabin: This was why we engaged in the comprehensive set-up of a dialogue with Syria and Lebanon through U.S. political mediation, and the direct dialogue between the military delegations, believing that the political mediation would be reflected in practical outcomes in the Al-Naqurah talks.

DAVAR: What went wrong?
Rabin: Things went wrong and there were changes. Syria became more vulnerable following developments in the Arab world. I have reason to assume that Syria did not believe that 'Arafat would even be able to convene the PNC, let alone in Jordan. Jordan and the PLO started to cooperate. Jordan resumed diplomatic ties with Egypt. All this has brought about what the Syrians see as a Cairo-Amman-Baghdad axis, a total revolution isolating Syria. This is the significant change that has come about in the last few months. The very fact that Syria is the main factor rejecting UNIFIL's deployment toward the north, whereas the PLO observer to the United Nations, Labib al-Tarazi, has appealed to the UN secretary general to send UNIFIL to Sidon, shows, in my opinion, that Syria's objection stems from the fear that UNIFIL may serve as a shelter for the return of the PLO to Lebanon, or at least to the refugee camps, and for 'Arafat's return there. Syria views the United Nations as supporting 'Arafat more than those who defected from the PLO.

DAVAR: In the past, Israel put little trust in UNIFIL and often accused it of cooperating with local elements. Why do we now rely on it?
Rabin: We have agreed to UNIFIL's deployment in view of the risks. It is clear that there are no good alternatives in Lebanon. In the process we now have started, we have been looking for a [illegible]

DAVAR: In a few days you will leave for the United States. What bilateral security issues do you intend to raise?
Rabin: Israel's supreme concern is to secure the complete understanding of the United States, the Administration, the Congress, and the public for Israel's security problems. We must explain how we see our security problems and how we intend to solve them. We must also continue the dialogue on the extent of the aid. Another issue to be examined is the use of the aid to ease Israel's economic problems: Should it be used for the Lavi, to offset products bought in Israel for our needs?

Over a year ago, for instance, we signed a contract for armored personnel carriers [APC's]. In this way we succeeded in selling communications equipment from Tadiran [electronics company] and equipment kits from other companies to the manufacturing company. In this manner we offset part of the cost of the APC's with products bought in Israel suitable for us, thus also providing employment.

DAVAR: Do you intend to promote the sale of Israeli security equipment to the United States?
Rabin: Definitely. We are now engaged, for instance, in concluding a deal significant for the future of Soltam [metal parts company]. The U.S. Army will make a final decision on the 120mm mortar, and it is leaning toward us, despite the fact that France wants to sell these mortars to the United States. France is currently our biggest rival in security equipment on the world market. We will raise more issues in the United States. There are problems in selling to a third country ammunition we bought in the United States and which has become outdated. We cannot do this without U.S. approval. The same applies to Israeli products which have U.S.-made components. However, given the present condition of Israel's security equipment industry and other industries, exports are of great economic importance, especially considering upcoming reductions in orders. In any case there will be dismissals, but we should at least try to minimize them.

DAVAR: With your permission, I would like to ask you about the difference of opinion between the Defense Ministry and the Treasury over the cut in the budget. The public has heard so many details that it no longer understands what the controversy is about.
Rabin: I am not surprised. So far it has not been customary to mention any figures. Let us try to understand — the Defense Ministry has agreed to such a significant cut in its budget, that it will be reduced to its lowest level since the Yom Kippur War. This can be underlined with data. Four years ago the government decided on a 5-year budget plan. According to this, the defense budget would amount to $3.2 billion annually, based on Israeli sources, without U.S. aid. This was the basic size of the defense budget from 1974 to 1981. The Defense Ministry is now ready to settle for $600 million less. This cannot be done in one move; cuts have already been implemented over the last 18 months. This is a significant cut, and we know that it will cut deeply and affect the IDF's present strength, rather than just stop its development. The treasury has demanded that we cut $1 billion from our budget, but this would destroy our security.

DAVAR: It seems as if the Treasury is applying more pressure on the Defense Ministry than the other ministries.
Rabin: Only the Defense Ministry has agreed to a significant budget cut. Other ministries have exceeded the annual budget by over $1 billion, whereas the Defense Ministry has not.

DAVAR: Perhaps it is easier for the Treasury to demand a cut in the defense budget than to get up the courage to cut subsidies?
Rabin: That is not impossible.

DAVAR: I would like briefly to raise some other issues. On 27 January the negotiations over Tabah's future will start in Beersheba. It seems that the Foreign Ministry is handling this matter. Does the defense establishment not have any interest in Tabah?
Rabin: I would not say that Tabah constitutes a security problem. It is mainly a political matter.

DAVAR: What do you think of appointing 'Amiran Nir [former political correspondent and Peres' aide, lately mentioned for the position of aide in terrorism affairs] to a sensitive security intelligence position?
Rabin: I do not answer questions on personal issues.

DAVAR: To what extent does the appointment of Major General Dan Shomron as deputy chief of staff, against the stand of the chief of staff, create tension in the general staff?
Rabin: Dan Shomron has been appointed deputy chief of staff and chief of operations with the approval of the chief of staff, and therefore there is no room for speculation on tension.

DAVAR: As a Cabinet member, do you think the Cabinet has acted properly in allowing the industry and trade minister to be absent for 70 percent of the time since he accepted his post, partly at the expense of the taxpayers, and in withholding from *TIME* magazine documents it put at the disposal of Ari'el Sharon?
Rabin: You should ask the prime minister this question.

Peres Discloses Message to USSR on Relations

TA281247 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1236 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres today disclosed that Israel sent a message to the Kremlin, via Jewish millionaire Armand Hammer, requesting the resumption of bilateral relations. According to the prime minister, the answer received through the Jewish millionaire was that a resumption of relations with Israel depends on relations between the U.S. and Soviet Governments.

[Begin Peres recording] We received an indirect answer from the Kremlin. We approached the Kremlin on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the war against the Nazis, asking whether there is any room for renewed cooperation and such. This message was transmitted by U.S. Jewish oil magnate Hammer, a friend of Lenin. The answer we received from the Soviet Union was: The Israeli issue depends on relations — and I am here quoting the response word for word — between the Soviet and U.S. Governments. [end recording]

The prime minister made this comment at a meeting with Jerusalem high school students and it is our corresponvent Hemi Bar-Yosef who quoted the prime minister on this.

Affirms Right to Defend North

TA281812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres hopes the scope of Shi'ite terrorism will not expand after the IDF withdraws. If the area does not calm down, the IDF will operate in southern Lebanon even after the withdrawal is completed, the prime minister said:

[Begin Peres recording] We would like the evacuation of Lebanon to be carried out in an orderly fashion — through settlements with the Lebanese, as well as through arrangements with the United Nations. That is why the time span between one phase of the withdrawal and its subsequent phase is sufficiently long to allow the Lebanese to contact us, and yet it is, at the same time, short enough for the IDF not to be forced to erect permanent fortifications. We would like to withdraw in four stages, and would like to examine what happens after each stage, both politically and militarily, and draw the conclusions. If there are no conclusions [as heard], the IDF will simply engage in an orderly retreat, will evacuate the area and return home. The Cabinet's decision talks about the withdrawal of the IDF all the way to the international border, so that we could examine the security means we need to defend Israel — aerial patrols, sea patrols, the existence of a security zone in the south [of Lebanon], and in the south, the presence of a Lebanese army with which we would be able to live and maintain contacts. These are the conditions which we consider of vital importance for defending the northern part of Israel — apart, that is, of course from the rights granted to every country to defend itself — to react to terrorism, to prevent it, to penalize terrorists, and the like. [end recording]

The prime minister was addressing 12th graders in Jerusalem — a tradition resumed today.

Lubrani Interviewed on Withdrawal Implications

TA261138 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, on "In the Current Situation" program by moderators Yosi 'Abadi and Yitzhaq Ben-Ner; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] ['Abadi] Do you believe that along with the dismantling of equipment and posts, Israel is also — in the framework of the decision to withdraw — dissociating itself from the ties with those groups that supported it in southern Lebanon?
[Lubrani] No, I do not believe that this is the case. Obviously, the farther away we are from those areas where we maintain ties, the more complicated and fragile they will be. However, under no circumstances do we want to sever all our relations in Lebanon. We will continue to live with a northern border adjacent to Lebanon, and we will seek to cultivate and strengthen any possible link.

['Abadi] I am referring to those people who cooperated with us. Perhaps now, in the wake of our withdrawal, they will cross the lines, or maybe they are already doing so.

[Ben-Ner] To be more specific, we are not talking so much about the Christians and the soldiers in the army of southern Lebanon [ASL], as about the moderates among the Sunnis and Shi'ites.
[Lubrani] I have not specifically heard anything about this. Obviously there is a concern about the lack of clarity in the situation. I think that by unequivocally announcing that on 18 February we are leaving, we have cleared away the fog at least in this connection.

I have not heard that people from this area being called collaborators, or people who have ties with us, are leaving the area in droves. I have much more respect for the Lebanese ability to adjust to new situations, and I am not talking about this or that hypothetical eventuality. We are indeed very receptive and our antennas are very sensitive. Generally speaking, however, I cannot say that this situation exists.

[Ben-Ner] Mr Lubrani, do you believe that Israel's decision to withdraw has already influenced and moved things on the Lebanese scene? In the Lebanese Administration?
[Lubrani] Perhaps I should say something about the Lebanese Administration, because it was our partner, at least in respect to its military delegation in Al-Naqurah. I can say that this Lebanese Administration did sincerely want to reach some kind of arrangements with us for an orderly transfer of the areas to be evacuated by us, without any disturbances and unusual events.

This Lebanese Administration has still not found a way to talk to us about the necessary arrangements that would allow this. The reason for this is not that the Lebanese Administration does not want to, but rather that its hands are tied by someone.

[Ben-Ner] This someone refers to the Syrians?
[Lubrani] Yes.

['Abadi] A question haunting many people in this connection is whether Shi'ite terrorism will pursue Israel to the new lines and all the way to the international border. What is your assessment concerning this point?
[Lubrani] I think that it is incorrect to speak of Shi'ite terrorism. There are terrorist acts carried out by Shi'ites, and they do so because they belong to the most extremist factions whose goal is Jerusalem rather than Metulla; on the other hand, there are Shi'ites who carry out terrorist activities for money or under the inspiration of Palestinians. It is clear that there will be Shi'ites who will be involved in attempts to attack us. I believe that this is part of what we can expect.

['Abadi] Does the withdrawal not reduce the motivation or decrease their need to continue these attacks?
[Lubrani] Obviously there are those who see us at present, when we are deployed in the area, as an element causing friction and agitation, and who are angry and annoyed by our presence, and they try to attack the IDF and ASL soldiers. It is doubtful whether they will continue to do so following our withdrawal, and perhaps in this case we can say that the motivation to do so will cease.

However, there are others, who for some kind of payment, will continue to do so. In addition, there are those who will attack out of ideological reasons.

[Ben-Ner] It is thought that once the IDF withdraws, a vacuum will be created which will then spark fighting between the Sunnis and the Shi'ites, and between the extremists and moderates among the Shi'ites. The Druze will do their part, the Syrians will have a hand in it all, as will the Palestinians and the PLO. It seems that this is what will fill the vacuum, whereas Israel will be forgotten. Is this an exaggerated prediction?
[Lubrani] Your description is very picturesque and very accurate. I think that that is what will take place. However, I would like to stress one point — there are two main groups that are unlikely to forget us. The first is the Palestinians, who view Israel as the main target, and they will try to continue to attack us.

[Ben-Ner] However, has their strength been significantly reduced?
[Lubrani] I do not know. Their strength has been reduced, but the motivation and the desire will continue to exist. The big question is, of course, to what extent and how soon they will succeed in building up some kind of infrastructure that will allow them to attack us. This is a question I find difficult to answer.

There is an internal debate regarding this issue, and we will have to wait and see what happens. There are groups whose roots are in Khomeynism and Islamic fundamentalism, and they too will try to attack us; they will not forget us because Jerusalem is a central idea for them.

[Ben-Ner] Do you interpret the assassination attempt on the Sunni leader Mustafa Sa'd as part of a purely internal conflict between the various factions in Lebanon, or rather as an attempt by, let us say, pro-Syrian circles to make the withdrawal difficult for Israel?
[Lubrani] I view the attempted assassination of Mustafa Sa'd in Sidon as part of the internal conflict in Lebanon, a conflict which we have been witnessing up to now.

[Ben-Ner] Is it not indirectly aimed against us?
[Lubrani] That is very possible, but perhaps not against us. I would like to explain here that we have seen, and we continue to see, an element of power in areas to be evacuated by us, as a factor that we could possibly transfer the area to in a more or less orderly manner — in this case we are talking about Sidon.

Sa'd did indeed represent a meaningful center of power in Sidon, and had he been in a state allowing us to talk with him, we would have certainly sought ways to transfer to him what we want to transfer. I believe that the fact that he is gone will indeed make things more difficult for us. So in this respect the answer is yes. But it is not that someone tried to make it difficult for us in this way.

[Ben-Ner] Mr Lubrani, the line which the IDF is to occupy after the first phase of the withdrawal — regarding the terrain, the villages around it — is it also dangerous? Do you predict that in this area, too, the IDF will be attacked often?
[Lubrani] Yes, I certainly do think so. In this regard nothing has really changed. We are simply handing over a central city in southern Lebanon — the capital of the south — however, we will still remain in territory that is heavily populated by Shi'ites.

Moda'i Interviewed on New Economic Measures

TA251545 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jan 85 weekend supplement pp 1, 2, 18

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Yosef Shavit on 24 January at Moda'i's office in Tel Aviv]

[Text] [Shavit] Mr Finance Minister, you described the first package deal as a defective child. Its younger brother, the second package deal, is now coming into the world. May we congratulate you on its birth?
[Moda'i] Certainly. Even in the best of families, it sometimes happens that one child comes out good and the other does not. In the first deal, the government — the national resources — gave more in economic rather than psychological terms than it received. This time, the government is getting more than it is giving.

[Shavit] Speaking about the first deal, in the last few weeks you said this was not the child you wished for. If that was the case, then why did you invest so much effort in bringing another such creature into the world?
[Moda'i] I decided from the outset — to the extent that a parent can decide — the kind of child I would like this time. I also learned my lesson from the first deal. This does not mean that I did not know what to expect economically from the first deal, but I relied on promises made outside the agreement.

[Shavit] What do you mean by that?
[Moda'i] It may now be disclosed that in the first package deal I had a commitment from the prime minister that the adjustment of subsidies would be postponed temporarily and that within a few days — or, in any case, no more than a few weeks — we would once again adjust subsidies. However, this promise could not be fulfilled, because when it comes to a showdown between a written agreement and a verbal promise, the former always has the upper hand. This time, I stated as early as the first term of the pregnancy that we would not be interested in any package deal whatsoever if subsidies were not cut drastically.

[Shavit] A package deal is mainly an administrative measure rather than an economic solution. Economists, without exception, are unanimous in their belief that the economy will not be healed without effecting a massive cut in the budget of the ministries, in addition to cutting subsidies. Do you really believe that it will be possible to cut the government's budget significantly?
[Moda'i] As for the first part of your question, the current package deal, contrary to the previous one, creates less latent inflation because it does not freeze prices, rather it determines a scale by which prices will increase under control and according to calculations, as has been the case for years with controlled items.

As for the second part of your question, the highlight of the economic plan, which I hope we will yet discuss at length, is a drastic cut in the government's budget, in addition to a cut in subsidies. As is known, the budget we presented to the Cabinet at the beginning of the week includes a cut of $1.1 billion — of course, the equivalent in shekels — in the government's activity. In addition, we will cut the public expenditure on salaries, whether by cutting out superfluous workers — and there are

some of those — or by reducing the number of weekly working hours coupled with a proportionate cut in wages. For some time now, this matter has been negotiated. We told our partners to the package deal that this is the government's intention for the 1985 fiscal year. The plan whose implementation is now going into high gear represents a minirevolution both in concept and implementation. To my regret, even in this kind of revolution, one fights for blood — money.

[Shavit] How different is your plan from all others raised in the last few years?
[Moda'i] First of all, it simultaneously deals with all the main objectives — protecting the foreign currency reserves, closing the gap in the government's budget, absorbing money from the public, and reducing the cash flow — and all within a few months. There will also be a significant change as regards its implementation — measures will be enforced to prevent deviations from the approved budget, by holding the perpetrators administratively responsible to the extent that they will be fired from work in keeping with the civil service code.

[Shavit] And what about those ministers who deviate from their budgets?
[Moda'i] This issue is still being discussed by the legal experts of the Finance Ministry and the Justice Ministry. The former believe that the minister's responsibility is insufficient and that the perpetrators must also be included, even if they are following the minister's orders. The Justice Ministry, on the other hand, wants to soften this formulation.

[Shavit] It is being rumored in the Treasury's corridors, and in certain political circles, that the economic decisionmaking center has moved from the Finance Minister's Office to the Prime Minister's Office. Some even say that you have been neutralized and that it is Shim'on Peres who pulls the strings. Do you also feel the same way?
[Moda'i] No, absolutely not, and I am not saying this because I want to downplay the prime minister's contribution. It is almost obvious that given our economic distress, this would also be the prime minister's main fighting arena. However, it must be clear that the orientation comes entirely from the Finance Ministry, because we do not just need a single effort, but full coordination and synchronization in terms of the scope, the substance, and the timing.

[Shavit] A package deal was also signed in the days of Pinhas Sapir [former finance minister in the late 1960's]. Would someone have conceived then of involving the prime minister in the matter?
[Moda'i] One should realize that the package deal also includes the Histadrut. It came naturally to Sapir to hold contacts both on the economic and partisan levels. However, a minister who is not a member of the Alignment must seek the assistance of inside people, and the prime minister certainly is on the inside.

[Shavit] Now that the second package deal is almost a fact, could you tell the public what lies in store for it in the next few months?
[Moda'i] The citizens will feel they have less money to spend, particularly on luxuries, despite the relative stability of prices, because henceforth they will have to pay for services they received free of charge and because luxuries will cost a great deal more than before.

[Shavit] The feeling is that the first and main victims of the new package deal will be salaried people. Is that so?
[Moda'i] No, that is not the case. Salaried people will certainly be making a significant contribution, but the burden is equally shared by them and the employers, because the latter will absorb an increase in production costs for which they will not be fully compensated.

[Shavit] What should we expect in terms of prices?
[Moda'i] A very moderate increase and, what is more important, knowledge of what the prices will be for the duration of the package deal. In the intermediate month between the first and second package deal, the prices of nonsubsidized items will rise by an average of 5 percent. The prices of subsidized products have already gone up by 25 percent or more, and they will not go up again during the intermediate period.

Later on, there will be a more moderate increase of an average 3 to 5 percent per month in the price of nonsubsidized items. As for subsidized items, their prices will increase during the package deal at a rate similar to that of the intermediate month. The same rule will apply to the prices of services, which will be controlled as was the case during the first package deal.

[Shavit] In which field do you plan to increase the burden of taxes and levies?
[Moda'i] Whole groups of taxes are now in the process of being legislated. Some of this fiscal legislation will apply to the linkage of payments from the date of obligation to the actual date of payment, imposing heavy fines for late payments, increasing the basic payment in case of late payment, raising the levies on goods and services that are largely paid for in foreign currency, charging for or raising the charge for services such as high school and college education, certain health services, municipal services and so forth.

[Shavit] You frequently mention the need to lower the public's standard of living and this is also one of the economic plan's objectives. How is this supposed to be reflected in our daily life?
[Moda'i] Only luxuries, the "dolce vita" [last two words in Italian], will be affected. The fact is, we have reduced subsidies but, at the same time, we have fully compensated the workers — in shekel terms — for this reduction. With luxury goods we will do exactly the opposite; we will raise their prices as much as we can.

[Shavit] Will you also limit the importation of other luxury goods?
[Moda'i] We will rely more on voluntary action than on administrative measures. The customer will have to decide whether he can afford to buy the dollar-expensive luxuries; Israel will then benefit in two ways — by either saving dollars or by absorbing the money in circulation and increasing its revenues.

[Shavit] It was reported this week that there are plans to impose a levy of 50 percent on the purchase of foreign currency for travel abroad. Can you confirm or deny this report?

[Moda'i] I can only say that even if the price of every dollar used by Israeli citizens increases, this will be a wise and necessary step in view of the current state of our foreign currency reserves.

[Shavit] In the framework of the package deal, the cost of living increase will be offset by the increase in the prices of subsidized products. Will this not adversely affect savings and pension programs linked to the increase of the consumer price index?
[Moda'i] The increase in the price of subsidized products will not be taken into account only as regards the calculation of the consumer price index, but will be taken into account as regards the calculation of savings programs or transactions linked to the index.

[Shavit] For example, do you plan to search the personal belongings of people traveling abroad?
[Moda'i] No. When I say that the control over foreign currency will increase, I mean that the Controller of Foreign Exchange will increase his control over some of the bank activities which have not been regulated to date, and which have been operated according to prevailing practices. For example, a man may now go to a bank, fill out an application stating why he needs a special foreign currency allocation, and receive it. Henceforth, in some cases these people will have to receive the approval of the Controller of Foreign Exchange.

[Shavit] Can you categorically state that you do not plan to break into safe deposit boxes as part of your fight against black capital?
[Moda'i] Certainly, yes. Let me make another statement. We are now setting up a special apparatus and legislation which will enable us to take firm and constant action — as opposed to one-time campaigns — to discover all types of tax evaders. Value added tax will be one of the means we will use. There are at present quite a number of businesses which do not issue value added tax invoices, and that is not because they are forgetful.

[Shavit] When will we see the first results in the field?
[Moda'i] The results will be seen as early as in the upcoming fiscal year.

[Shavit] How true is the argument that the Treasury cannot properly cope with tax collection due to a shortage of trained and capable personnel?
[Moda'i] The truth is that the Treasury has so far not properly tackled this field, first of all because the question of income tax is anchored in a complicated and rather unfeasible law. Above everything else, this law allows for legal tax evasion even when the profits are visible.

[Shavit] Will the aparatus you mentioned also engage in detective work, such as calling on doctors disguised as patients?
[Moda'i] I do not rule out any action aimed at uncovering tax evaders, and I do not regard it as being undemocratic or unfair. On the contrary, I see this as being the duty of the tax authorities of an enlightened country. In the absence of permanent action of this kind, an intolerable distortion has been created in which tax evaders benefit at the expense of honest tax-paying citizens.

[Shavit] Will you also encourage tip-offs?
[Moda'i] There will not be a hot line for tip-offs, and there will be no action in which government mechanisms will be missused.

[Shavit] In the last few days, many people "broke" savings programs to purchase consumer products before their price went up. Was this not a "slip" on the part of the Treasury?
[Moda'i] In processes such as a package deal, which receive a great deal of publicity and which give rise to a lot of speculations, cases of mass panic are inevitable. However, I am sure that those who panicked will reap their fruit. [sentence as published] Those who kept their savings and did not cash them in to buy products will ultimately get a better value.

[Shavit] How do you explain that?
[Moda'i] Early withdrawal from savings program entails a loss and the drawing of this money carries with it a loss of profit linked to either the index or the dollar. The sum of these two is larger than the money saved when the item was purchased.

[Shavit] Are savings in Israel on the decline?
[Moda'i] No, the level of savings is more or less stable. This is a positive phenomenon, both for the individual and the country, and we will continue to encourage it.

[Shavit] Does this mean that the various savings programs will in no way be affected?
[Moda'i] That is correct.

[Shavit] An increasing number of people prefer to save by buying dollars in the black market and keeping them at home. Frankly, are they not the wiser?
[Moda'i] Turning kosher shekels into "black" dollars entails a loss for the capital owner because "black" money is doomed to be uncovered.

[Shavit] Is that not a rather naive statement?
[Moda'i] This is one of my main objectives. "Black" capital is not only an economic, but also a social cancer and it should be totally uprooted.

[Shavit] If you had cash in hand, the equivalent of $150,000, where would you invest it?
[Moda'i] Luckily, that is not my problem.

[Shavit] And theoretically?
[Moda'i] I would hesitate just like any other citizen.

[Shavit] With your permission, let us go back to the package deal. Why, in fact, are you not urging a large devaluation to be deducted from the cost of living increment to kill several birds with one stone?
[Moda'i] Because experience in Israel shows that devaluations cannot be deducted from the cost of living increments, and that the net result of a devaluation is an increase in the rate of inflation, because of the quasi-perfect linkage system.

[Shavit] Do you plan to encourage stock exchange deals in the framework of the economic plan?
[Moda'i] There is no doubt that a revision of the capital market — which will in no way affect any financial assets whatsoever — must cast the stock exchange in the role of honest broker between the suppliers of financial assets and the demand for such assets on a business basis. The government should stop its deep

involvement in the capital market, which both blocks it and creates inevitable bureacratic distortions.

[Shavit] Senior officials in your ministry this week cautioned that we will soon hit rock bottom regarding our foreign currency reserves. What do you intend to do in this field?
[Moda'i] We are trying to protect foreign currency reserves by making them expensive in every possible way, and by looking for outside sources to guarante the reserves.

[Shavit] Could you elaborate on this issue?
[Moda'i] I am sorry, but I cannot.

[Shavit] In just 2 months we "swallowed" half the annual economic aid granted by the U.S. Government. Seeing that our foreign currency reserves dropped by $600 million in that period, what will we do now? Will we ask the Americans for the aid for 1986?
[Moda'i] Even if we get it, it will not help us much because we will then have created a gap for 1986. The main solution lies in increasing exports and cutting the foreign currency expenses.

[Shavit] Might the Americans ultimately not turn off the tap?
[Moda'i] This might happen if we do not take some drastic and immediate action. However, if we take immediate action, I believe that in times of need, as President Reagan declared, we could resort to the Americans for brief interim periods.

[Shavit] Do you not fear that the Americans might cut the aid even before we have time to take real action?
[Moda'i] No, I do not have such fears.

[Shavit] There have been five finance ministers since 1977, but the economy has not yet seen its salvation. Could one not simply infer that there is no solution to this problem?
[Moda'i] The Israeli economy basically has enormous potential. If we increased productivity by only 10 to 15 percent, we could close all the gaps, both in the state budget and the balance of payments. That level of productivity would still be low compared to that of developed economies.

[Shavit] Four of your predecessors from the Likud failed. What makes you confident you will be the one to succeed?
[Moda'i] There are two main reasons. First, I have been adopting a balanced policy to achieve the chief objective of recovery on all economic fronts; second, all public sectors and the national leadership believe that the situation calls for drastic measures.

The feeling up till now had been that we would get out of this situation without making any sacrifices, and that is why the strong and vast measures necessary to deal with it were not taken.

[Shavit] How much time have you given yourself to implement your economic plan?
[Moda'i] The next fiscal year will be the test year.

[Shavit] And if you fail?
[Moda'i] I cannot fathom us affording such luxuries.

Moda'i Submits Economic Plan

TA281635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The finance minister announced in the Knesset that he intends to introduce tax reforms and continue the battle against black capital. He promised he would not harm the Israeli citizens' savings in real terms, nor devalue our currency in a bid to increase exports. Minister Moda'i expressed the hope that within 1 fiscal year, following an increase in income and a cut in subsidies and ministerial budgets, the state budget deficit would be cut almost completely. The finance minister submitted the Cabinet's new economic plan to the Knesset, and the plan is now being discussed.

'Major Points' of Second Package Deal Reported

TA270753 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jan 85 p 2

["The Following Are the Main Points of the Economic Agreement (Package Deal) Signed by the Government, the Histadrut and the Manufacturers, Last Thursday (24 January) Night" — *THE JERUSALEM POST* subhead]

[Text] The agreement will last for eight months, from February 4, 1985 to October 4, 1985, except for those clauses specified to take effect before February 4. Each party will be able to request a review of the agreement any time after July 1, and each party will be able to withdraw from the agreement any time after July 5.

The government decided, with the approval of the other parties, to immediately abolish or reduce the following subsidies:

—all fuel subsidies will be abolished;
—water subsidies will be reduced by half;
—the price of electricity for industrial use will increase by 54 per cent;
—the price of electricity for home use will increase by 25 per cent;
—the prices of subsidized foodstuffs will increase by 25 per cent;
—fares will increase by 55 per cent.

In addition, the subsidies on foodstuffs and public transport will be reduced by $210 million [m.] in February, and by a further $210m. in March. The price rises resulting from the food subsidy cuts will not be allowed to exceed an average 12 or 13 per cent monthly. Cuts in the subsidies of public transport will be decided by a committee consisting of a representative of each of the three sides.

The level of subsidization prevailing after all the above have been implemented will be maintained during the course of the agreement.

On the eve of the agreement taking effect, all non-subsidized goods and services will be allowed an average price rise of 5 per cent. The rate of price increases for all non-subsidized goods and services will be determined by the appropriate government department (the Industry and Trade Ministry).

The government will bring before the Knesset a bill for the maintenance of the stability of the prices of goods and services. The law will enable the price levels prevailing at the time of the agreement's implementation to be maintained with the addition of the aforementioned price rises. It will also exempt certain goods and services from the agreement.

Subsequent price rises or exemptions will be granted by the responsible government body, with the approval of a committee on which all three parties are represented. The goods and services under control will be allowed monthly average price rises of between 3 and 5 per cent. The sides estimate that the subsidy cut will lead to an increase of no more than 6 per cent in the consumer price index [CPI]. This increase will not be taken into account for the purpose of calculating the cost-of-living [COL] increment.

If the CPI does rise by more than 6 per cent as a result of the subsidy cuts, the difference above 6 per cent will be regarded as a normal increase, for the purpose of calculating the cost-of-living increase.

All wage earners will receive a one-time cash payment of IS6,575 in compensation for the initial subsidy cuts. Part-time workers will receive partial compensation at the appropriate level. The compensation will be paid with the next pay slip, no later than February 15, and will be regarded as a part of the salary for every purpose.

The employers will not raise the prices of their goods or services on account of the compensation paid to the workers.

The sides estimate that the subsequent subsidy cuts will lead to a monthly rise of 1.5 per cent in the CPI. This rise will be absorbed equally by the workers and the employers, and will not be taken into account for the purposes of calculating the COL increment.

For the subsequent subsidy cuts, the workers will be compensated by a linked cash payment of IS1,650 (at present rates), to be paid in March, and a further IS1,650 to be paid in April. Part-time workers will be compensated partially.

Compensation for pensioners and welfare recipients will be decided jointly by the Treasury, the National Insurance Institute, the Histadrut, and the employers.

The government will allow salaried workers an income tax reduction of 5 per cent for the months of May, June, and July. (The first package deal provided for an identical reduction for the months February, March, and April.) The reduction will be given to all those whose salaries fall below the COL increment ceiling.

The agreement does not cover the prices of government goods and services, bonds or taxes, in particular postal and telephone rates, hospitalization, kindergartens, and university fees.

The profitability of exports will be maintained during the period of the agreement. The rate of support for exports and interest rates will be revised every two months.

The government reaffirms its commitment to full employment and will take steps to prevent unemployment. The Histadrut and the manufacturers will be party to the drawing up of this policy. The taxation structure will be reformed. In this framework, income tax rates will be lowered after consultation between the sides. The government will act against black capital.

The "exemptions committee" will comprise two representatives from each of the Treasury, the Industry and Trade Ministry, the Histadrut, and the employers. Each delegation will have one vote.

Any delegate will be able to appeal the committee's decisions to a "followup committee" consisting of the Finance Minister, the secretary general of the Histadrut, and the chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations. The followup committee will follow the implementation of the agreement and will prepare for the post-agreement period.

The government will undertake to pass the necessary legislation for the implementation of the agreement. The Histadrut and the employers will reach a collective agreement to incorporate the terms of this agreement in their past agreements. The collective agreement will be widened by government order to include all economic elements.

Government To Cease Funding for Arabic Newspaper

TA280815 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jan 85 p 1

[ITIM report]

[Text] Government funding for the Israeli Arabic newspaper *AL-ANBA'* will end on Friday and Thursday's issue will be the last, the paper's management was informed yesterday by the deputy director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Arye Shomer.

MK Says Jewish Underground Still Present

TA281212 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jan 85 p 9

[Report by Arye Avneri]

[Text] "Among the settlers in Judaea and Samaria, there are still solid remnants of the Jewish underground equipped with a large quantity of weapons and ready for action in the event the government decides to remove settlements." This was said by Knesset Member [MK] Ran Kohen — who is also a high-ranking reserve officer — to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a meeting they held recently.

More than 2 years ago MK Kohen warned that in various settlements in Judaea and Samaria there are arms caches, and expressed the fear that an underground was organizing. Following the publication of his warnings he received a series of threats.

A short time after the current defense minister entered office, Ran Kohen met him and informed him that he possesses qualified information according to which there is still an underground

nucleus existing in Judaea and Samaria, and that the arrest of suspects in the Jewish underground has not eliminated it. MK Kohen said yesterday: "As a reserve officer, I have the opportunity to establish contacts with settlers who possess information, and in this manner I have succeeded in collecting a few essential facts which I passed on to the appropriate people, among them Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin."

Organization of African Trade Union Unity Meets

Report on Special Fund, IMF

AB251636 Dakar PANA in English 1612 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Lagos, 25 Jan (NAN/PANA) — A special committee of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) has said that the credibility of economic cooperation among the African, Carribean and Pacific (ACP)/European Economic Community (EEC) countries under the Lome Convention might be undermined if a special fund was not created for industrial investment in the least developed African countries.

The report of the committee, which was discussed yesterday in Lagos by the fourth congress of the organisation along with the secretary general's report, condemned what it saw as a failure to implement a new strategy under the Lome Convention aimed at assisting African countries. The report stated that a meeting of trade unions had recommended that future industrial and economic cooperation must give priority to the creation of job opportunities, improvement of technological capacity, training, export opportunities and the re-investment of surplus profits in the ACP states. The report deplored the numerous instances of transfer of obsolete technology and the use of hazardous products in ACP states. It called for international codes of conduct to regulate the activities of transnational corporations within the ACP community.

The report further recommended that trade unions should be allowed to participate in an advisory committee of the ACP/EEC and be consulted on general industrial cooperation policy in the decision of the ACP/EEC council.

On IMF, the report praised the foresight of African trade unions in rejecting the conditions of the loan which "is an infringement" on national sovereignty set out in the charter of economic rights and duties of states adopted by the UN. It stated that IMF's financial support to apartheid South Africa went against its principle of neutrality and that IMF intervention had caused economic miseries for Egypt, Tanzania, Jamaica, Peru and Sudan.

Congress Ends Without Agreement

AB280725 Lagos NAN in English 1430 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Lagos, Jan. 27, (NAN) — The 4th Congress of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) ended last night in Lagos without electing a new executive following allegations of financial irregularities at the organisations Secretariat. NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondents at the conference venue [words indistinct] decide whether some member countries allegedly defaulting in payment of dues to the organisation would take part in the election.

Addressing newsmen, the chairman of the congress, Alhaji Ali Chiroma, said that the auditor's report on the organisation's account "raised several unanswered questions." He said that heads of delegations at the special meeting yesterday agreed to set up a panel to investigate the accounts and that the present executive would be allowed to remain in office and be supervised by a caretaker committee. Alhaji Ali said that an emergency congress would be convened after one year at the organisation's headquarters in Accra to elect a new executive.

The assistant secretary-general of the organisation, Mr Ali Ibrahim, told NAN: "We have met for six days without achieving anything." Mr Ibrahim said that the decision to set up a probe panel and a committee to supervise the Secretariat was inconclusive as it did not state who the members of the committee were or who should appoint them. The congress, which started on Monday, ended without agreements on major issues like widespread unemployment in Africa, drought, poor living standards of African workers and review of the organisation's charter which were discussed.

The organisation's secretary general, Mr Dennis Akumu, refused to comment on the outcome of the congress while Nigeria's candidate for the presidency of the organisation, Alhaji Hassan Sunmonu, said that he was satisfied with the setting-up of a panel to probe embezzlement within the organisation.

Some of the delegates are expected to leave for their countries today.

Secretary General Comments

AB281922 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The fourth congress of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity has ended inconclusively in Lagos. It was attended by 41 national unions affiliated to OATUU and three liberation movements, including SWAPO, the ANC, and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania. For the first time, a delegation from the Island of Reunion, still under French rule, attended the meeting. Briefing newsmen in Accra today on his return from Lagos, the secretary general of OATUU, Mr James Akumu, said the Executive Committee members elected in Mogadishu in 1980 will continue in office until the next congress to elect a new executive. Accordingly, the executive committee instructed the Secretariat to begin discussions and preparations for the reconvening of another congress as soon as possible at the headquarters in Accra. A full meeting of the Executive Committee is to be held in Accra not later than March or April this year. Mr Akumu condemned what he called the massive interference by international trade union organizations which were very active in Lagos and would have liked the OATUU to disintegrate. He was confident that the organization will emerge stronger after the forthcoming congress.

OAU Liberation Committee To Open 43d Session in Accra

AB281015 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The 43d session of the OAU Liberation Committee begins in Accra today. In addition to the delegations from the 23-member committee, there will be delegates from the three liberation movements in southern Africa. They are the SWAPO, the ANC, and the Pan-Africanist Congress, both of South Africa.

This will be the second time that Ghana will host such a conference. The first was held in Accra in 1973. Ghana's secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, is the current chairman of the committee.

Meanwhile, more delegates have arrived for the session. Among them are the executive secretary of the Liberation Committee, Brigadier (Hashim Mbisa); the Tanzanian minister of labor and manpower development, D.N. Mwakawago; and the Zimbabwe foreign minister, Dr Witness Mangwende. The others are the chairman of the Pan-Africanist Congress, John Pokela; the secretary general of the ANC, Alfred Nzo; and the Egyptian assistant minister for foreign affairs, (Tahal al-Maghdub).

The chairman of the Pan-Africanist Congress told newsmen that he is convinced that a major strategy will be adopted to see to the early liberation of South Africa and Namibia. He is happy that the OAU has rediscovered itself by the success of its summit in Addis Ababa.

The secretary general of the ANC said events in South Africa within the past 2 years show an escalation of the struggle for independence. He said there is division among the ruling white clique there, and this is a healthy sign of victory for the blacks.

The Zimbabwe foreign minister recalled that the 1973 meeting of the Liberation Committee adopted a strategy that led to the liberation of the Portuguese territories in Africa. He hoped another such strategy would be adopted to liberate the rest of Africa.

The Egyptian assistant foreign minister said Africa has always stood for peace and justice and wonders why its people are being oppressed on their own land. He hoped their deliberation would yield fruitful results.

Standing Committees Meet

AB281951 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Two standing committees of the OAU Liberation Committee began a 3-day meeting at the Kwame Nkrumah Conference Center in Accra today to prepare for the official opening of the 43d session of the committee on Friday. They are the Committee of Policy, Information, and Defense, chaired by the Nigerian high commissioner to Tanzania, Mr C.U. Ogbunike, and that of Finance and Administration, under the chairmanship of Dr Maphranga, Zimbabwe's high commissioner in Tanzania. So far 18 of the 22 member nations of the Liberation Committee have arrived. There are also observers from 10 African countries and three liberation movements, the SWAPO, the ANC, and the Pan-Africanist Congress, both from South Africa.

In an address before the subcommittee meeting began, the outgoing chairman of the Standing Committee on Policy, Information and Defense, Mr Antonio Francisco Mandeira, noted that the conference practically demonstrates and reaffirms Ghana's commitment to the struggle for the liberation of Africa. It also revives in the minds of Africans an everlasting memory of Dr Kwame Nkrumah, whom Mr Mandeira described as a visionary whose inspiring ideas continue to guide many policymakers and intellectuals in Africa and beyond. He denounced the activities of South Africa and its supporters who have been trying through their propaganda machinery to soil and discredit national movements like SWAPO, the ANC, and the Frontline States. Through their delay maneuvers and pressures, the racist regime and its allies have also drawn back the process of the implementation of the UN Resolution 435, which calls for the independence of Namibia.

Despite all the goodwill shown by SWAPO and the Angolan Government, South Africa and its allies are still insisting on the illegal demand of withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola before Namibian independence. Mr Mandeira stressed the need for greater unity among African countries for, he said, it is only oneness of purpose and determination which can sufficiently move African nations to sacrifice and contribute willingly to save the continent from the onslaught of imperialism.

ANC's Nzo Comments

AB291010 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The secretary general of the African National Congress, Mr Alfred Nzo, has said that South Africa's signing of the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique has failed to deal the death blow to the ANC as South Africa expected. Rather, it has served to consolidate and intensify the struggle of the black people of South Africa within the apartheid republic itself.

He was speaking to the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation in Accra where he is attending the 43d session of the OAU Liberation Committee meeting being hosted by Ghana.

Mr Nzo said the nonaggression pact which South Africa is signing with its neighbors is only one step in the racist regime's maneuvers to dominate southern Africa. Mr Nzo said the current meeting taking place is against the background of rumors emanating from South Africa that despite the commitment of African governments, the racists are winning allies on the continent. He expressed the hope that the meeting will recommit the entire continent to its important international duty of giving increased support to the national liberation movements. He called on the international community to raise its voice against the arrest of the leaders of the United Democratic Front of South Africa for treason. A treason trial, he said, means the possible death for people implementing a program for their liberation.

On the hope in some quarters that the imprisoned leader of the ANC, Mr Nelson Mandela's interview with a British paper shows a possible relaxation of the racist regime's attitude, Mr Nzo said: This is far from true. He said for the past 21 years since Mr Mandela's imprisonment, the racist regime has been faced with his growing prestige and the knowledge that he continues to exert an influence on developments in South Africa. The interview, therefore, is an acknowledgement that Mr Mandela and the other imprisoned leaders and the views they represent are to be reckoned with.

Regarding Senator Edward Kennedy's visit to South Africa, Mr Nzo said his visit has drawn world attention to the disastrous effects of apartheid. He said the visit would help mobilize the legislature in the United States to adopt a stronger position against apartheid in the light of continuous demonstrations in the United States against policies of the racist South African regime. In a summary of the general activities of the ANC last year, Mr Nzo said the ANC brought together trade unions and many organizations under the United Democratic Front, UDF. This body has mobilized the people of South Africa for boycotts, strikes, and the armed struggle. The outcome of the boycott organized by the UDF, according to Mr Nzo, proved that apartheid cannot be reformed but must be destroyed completely.

Meanwhile, the 43d session will convene again this evening to discuss reports being prepared by the general Policy, Information, and Defense Committee and the Administration and Finance Committee.

Comoros, France Join Indian Ocean Commission
PM241009 Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Jan 85 p 6

[Jacques de Barrin dispatch: "France and Comoro Islands Admitted to Indian Ocean Commission"]

[Text] Antananarivo — France and the Comoro Islands have been accepted as full members of the Indian Ocean Commission, whose third session ended in Antananarivo on Friday, 18 January. This regional organization, set up in November 1982, already grouped Madagascar, Mauritius, and the Seychelles.

Mr Michel Blangy, prefect of Reunion, who headed the French delegation, was anxious to remove all legal ambiguity by explaining that "in the eyes of international law and internal constitutional law, only the French Republic adheres to an international agreement." Some member states, particularly the Seychelles, apparently hoped, not without ulterior motives, that the Island of Reunion would have a seat on the Indian Ocean Commission in its own right, but Paris refused to adopt a course which could be interpreted as heralding the abandonment of sovereignty.

Mauritian Foreign Minister Anyl Gayan said that the Indian Ocean Commission partners did not want territories whose sovereignty is disputed to join, namely the "scattered islands" of Mayotte and Tromelin, claimed respectively by Madagascar, the Comoro Islands, and Mauritius. "It is preferable to do without these troublesome elements," he said.

The Indian Ocean Commission member states have decided to establish South-South cooperation on practical bases, thanks especially to the help of the EEC.

ALGERIA

Prime Minister on Sahara Issue, Maghreb Talks

LD291038 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Abdelhamid Brahimi, prime minister and alternate member of the Political Bureau, gave an interview yesterday at the Press Club. He discussed important national issues, the world economic crisis and its impact on the national economy.

He spoke of the decentralization and the restructuring of organizations and labor laws. He also spoke of irrigation and agriculture and the priority given to them in the 5-year plan.

He also spoke of the international economic crisis and its repercussions in Algeria. He affirmed that despite the drop in the prices of oil, thanks to its wise policy, Algeria has succeeded in overcoming the repercussions and taking control of its economic affairs.

On the question of economic relations, Brother Brahimi said that Algeria has decided to diversify its relations with all the friendly and fraternal countries and in all dealings with the countries of the south and the socialist bloc countries.

Regarding the Arab Maghreb, Ibrahimi said Algeria's position is clear: There can be no scope for talks on cooperation within the Arab Maghreb countries without touching on the question of the Western Sahara. He added: Algeria welcomes cooperation, but only after the peaceful solution of the problem of the Western Sahara.

LIBYA

U.S. 6th Fleet Conducting 'Provocative Maneuvers'

LD282249 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The U.S. 6th Fleet has been conducting provocative maneuvers on 27 and 28 January 1985 off the coast of the Jamahiriyah. The fleet command has issued the following announcement to pilots: Exercises by the aircraft carrier will take place in the Tripoli aviation (?information) zone, from surface to a height of 24,000 feet within a latitude of 32.45 and between 15 to 23.3 degrees longitude east, as of 0001 on 27 January to 0200 on 28 January. [as heard]

These maneuvers have started from Egyptian territorial waters, and American air activity was concentrated on 27 January near our eastern coast, launched from the *Eisenhower* aircraft carrier and the naval units accompanying it, near the Gulf of (Al-Sallum.)

Today, Monday 28 January American air activity was concentrated north of the Banghazi region since dawn today.

The provocative maneuvers against the people of the Jamahiriyah come as a link in the series of deliberate U.S. plotting carried out with the knowledge and acquiescence of the hireling regime in Egypt that has become an obedient tool in the hands of imperialism and Zionism to serve their abject designs against the Arab nation and its dynamic forces, whose liberation unionist vanguard is formed by the Jamahiriyah.

SRV Vice Chairman, Delegation Arrive for Visit

LD290904 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening accompanied by a delegation on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

In a statement, Gen Giap said: My delegation and I are happy to visit the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, one of the steadfast strongholds against colonialism and world imperialism. He added: I am confident that my visit will positively contribute to bolstering the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two friendly countries in various fields.

MAURITANIA

Head of State Receives Arab League's Klibi

AB281802 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Colonel Maaouyia Sid Ahmed Ould Taya, the CMSN chairman and head of state, received in audience yesterday Mr Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the Arab League.

The Arab League secretary general, who arrived in Nouakchott yesterday morning, said he discussed with the head of state current issues concerning the Arab world and common Arab action. He added that he found the head of state had a great understanding of all the issues.

Answering a question on the possibility of holding a Maghreb summit, Mr Chedli Klibi said that such a summit would be welcome to bring sanity into inter-Arab relations and ease tension in the region.

Earlier, the secretary general of the Arab League held the first round of talks with Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation [as heard].

Finance Minister Leaves for Dhaka Meeting

AB281806 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly, CMSN member and minister of finance and commerce, left Nouakchott yesterday for Dhaka where he will participate in the deliberations of the annual board of governors meeting of the Islamic Development Bank scheduled to take place 1-3 February in the Bangladesh capital. Later the minister will leave for Saudi Arabia.

Mr Babaly is being accompanied on his trip by Mr (Mbabe Rabdou Ould Cheikh Abounana), the director of the National Development Fund. The latter is expected to pay a visit to Kuwait where he will hold a series of talks with officials of the Kuwaiti Development Fund and the Arab Social Development Fund.

Interior Minister Returns From Morocco

LD290008 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Jibril Ould Abdallah, member of the CMSN and minister of the interior, returned to Nouakchott tonight after delivering a message from Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, to King Hassan II of Morocco.

MOROCCO

Hassan Receives Mauritanian Interior Minister

LD281557 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received at the royal palace in Marrakech today at noon Lieutenant Colonel Djibril Ould Abdallah, Mauritanian minister of the interior, who arrived bearing a message for his majesty the king from Mauritanian President Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani, Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, Interior Minister Driss Basri, Information Minister Dr Abdellatif Filali, and adviser to his majesty the king Ahmed Reda Guedira.

His Majesty then chaired a working meeting attended by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani, Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, Interior Minister Driss Basri, Information Minister Dr Abdellatif Filali, National Education Minister Azzedine Laraki, Finance Minister Adellatif Jouahri, and his majesty's adviser, Ahmed Reda Guedira, and Mohamed Awwad [not further identified].

TUNISIA

Algerian Foreign Minister Meets With President

LD281258 Algiers APS in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Political Bureau member and minister of foreign affairs, has been received by Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba at Kartaj Palace. Ibrahimi conveyed a message from Brother President Chadli Bendjedid.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Mzali, Tunisian premier and minister of interior; Habib Bourguiba Jr, special adviser to the Tunisian head of state; Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs; and Brother Messaoud Ait Chalal, the Algerian ambassador in Tunis.

Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Tunis this morning and was met on arrival by Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and members of the Algerian diplomatic mission in Tunis.

Comments on Maghreb Summit

LD282126 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Mr Taleb Ibrahimi was received this morning in Tunis by President Habib Bourguiba, to whom he delivered a message from President Chadli Bendjedid. Dr Ibrahimi was received earlier by Tunisian Prime Minister Mr Mohamed Mzali.

At the end of his visit Doctor Taleb Ibrahimi said that his talks allowed him to note with satisfaction the level achieved through bilateral cooperation.

The situation in the area and the intensive steps aimed at removing the obstacles to Maghreb unity were also discussed. The object of all those steps, the Algerian foreign minister said, is to seek a peaceful solution to the Saharan problem, a solution which might satisfy the two conflicting parties.

On the subject of the Maghreb summit, which has recently been at the focus of attention, Dr Ibrahimi recalled the invitation issued 2 years ago by President Chadli Bendjedid for such a meeting. However, he said, the main thing is not a meeting as such but one that will ensure chances of success, because a summit meeting marked by improvisation without proper preparations is likely to have negative results and will only deceive the hopes entertained by the region's countries. The minister says that this desire to ensure proper preparations for a Maghreb summit is shared by Algeria and Tunisia.

WESTERN SAHARA

IRNA: Moroccan Troops Killed, Aircraft Downed

LD251731 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Algiers, Jan 25, IRNA — More than 600 troops of the Moroccan regime were killed by the revolutionaries of the Sahara National Liberation Front, it was announced by the Information Ministry of the SDAR here Thursday. The announcement added that in addition to killing 667 troops of the aggressor Moroccan forces, another 1,345 were wounded, while three Moroccan jet fighters, including an F-1 Mirage, were downed.

It said three support centers for the Moroccan forces as well as 17 armored personnel carriers, 12 machine-gun mounted Jeeps, 31 other military vehicles, six rocket launchers, 15 fuel and ammunition depots and ten artillery pieces, among other equipment, were also destroyed.

ETHIOPIA

Government Statement on Sudanese Hostages' Release

EA281909 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] today handed over to the Ethiopian Government four Compagnie de Construction Internationale [CCI] workers who had been held hostage in southern Sudan. For its part, the Ethiopian Government today handed over two French, one British, and one Kenyan citizen to the French construction company.

After accepting the request by the SPLA to mediate between the two parties for a peaceful solution based on humanitarian grounds, the Ethiopian Government held 12 mediation meetings. A Foreign Ministry statement on the issue notes that even though revolutionary Ethiopia made the necessary efforts for speedy mediation between the two parties, the complexity of the problem had delayed the matter. The two parties came to a general understanding in December 1984 and reached a detailed agreement last week, the statement adds. The statement also says that in the agreement the SPLA agreed to release the four hostages and the CCI for its part will fulfill some matters [andand gudayoch] acceptable to the SPLA.

The statement points out that revolutionary Ethiopia expresses its gratitude to those countries who have patiently followed the mediation efforts and to those who have contributed and cooperated toward solving the problem.

It is recalled that the two French, one British, one West German, and one Kenyan citizen who were employees of the CCI were taken hostage by the SPLA in February last year. Of the six hostages, Mrs Morson and her 18-month-old child were released in March last year through the great efforts of revolutionary Ethiopia.

Briefs

Soviet Drought Aid — The Soviet Government has donated 200,000 plastic plates, 100,000 plastic cups, 200 tents, and 4,000 blankets to be used by compatriots affected by drought. Part of the donation, 100,000 plastic plates and 70,680 cups, which has already arrived, was handed over to the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission by Comrade Oleg Bocharov, minister counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Addis Ababa. [Text] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 24 Jan 85 EA*]

Envoys Present Credentials — Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee secretary general, Provisional Military Administrative Council people's republic chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, this morning received the credentials of four newly appointed ambassadors. In a ceremony held at the national palace, the ambassadors who presented their credentials to the secretary general were: Polish Ambassador Comrade Andrzej Konopacki; Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea Bocar Biro Barry; ambassador of Bangladesh, resident in Cairo, Hadayat Ahmad; and Portuguese ambassador, resident in Nairobi, (Afarso Kabater). Present during the ceremony was Comrade Goshu Wolde, WPE Central Committee member and foreign minister. [Excerpts] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 26 Jan 85 EA*]

KENYA

Moi Urges Party To Concentrate on Recruitment Drive

EA281934 Nairobi KNA in English 1535 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Kapsabet, Jan 28 — His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today called for an end to all accusations, counteraccusations, suspensions and expulsions within the KANU branches in the country. President Moi, who is also president of the ruling party, KANU, said all KANU branches should now concentrate on a vigorous and peaceful recruitment drive for party members.

The president stated that the suspensions and expulsions sanctioned so far were enough, adding that the electorate should be left alone to decide the fate of any officials in whom the branches had no faith. He stressed that the electorate should be allowed to vote the people of their choice when KANU elections will be announced in March this year. [sentence as received]

President Moi said party branches should engage in organizing and educating wananchi on ways to register themselves and acquire the new membership cards during the recruitment drive. He further called on the branches to involve themselves in development activities within their areas. The president was speaking at Chepterwai in Mosop division of Nandi District, where he witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony for the site of the proposed 72-bed Nyayo wards.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Attends Disarmament Conference in India

For coverage of the visit to India by President Julius Nyerere to attend the six-nation disarmament conference in New Delhi, including reports of his comments and speeches, see the India section of the 28 January South Asia *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

CAMEROON

President Biya Returns From Ivory Coast Visit

AB271430 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] President Paul Biya yesterday returned to the country after concluding a 3-day friendly and working visit to the Ivory Coast. The Cameroonian chief executive and his host, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, held talks on bilateral cooperation and international issues.

Kuwaiti Development Fund Grants 3 Billion CFA Loan

AB270944 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] A loan of 3 billion CFA francs has been granted to the Republic of Cameroon by the Kuwaiti Development Fund to help finance works on the second phase of the Song Loulou hydroelectric project. The loan agreement was signed today by the Kuwaiti minister of oil and finance [title as heard], 'Ali Al-Khalifah al-Sabah, and Cameroon's minister of state in charge of plan and regional development, Mr Youssoufa Daouda. Mr Youssoufa Daouda thanked the fund and the people and Government of Kuwait for their constant participation in the development of Cameroon.

The total cost of the project is estimated at 42.5 billion CFA francs, and over eight percent of the cost is financed by the Kuwaiti Development Fund.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Meets With Sudanese Foreign Minister

JN261044 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Bangui, 26 Jan (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman has conveyed a message from President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to General Andre Kolingba, Central African Republic president and chairman of the Military Committee of National Redress, on bilateral relations. This took place here yesterday when Gen Kolingba received Hashim 'Uthman, who is now visiting the Central African Republic at the head of the Sudanese side to meetings of the joint ministerial committee. Gen Kolingba asked the foreign minister to convey his greetings to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri asserting the good relations between the two countries.

Joint Communique Issued

JN271045 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Bangui, Jumadi Awwal 6/Jan 27 (SUNA) — The Sudanese-Central African Joint Ministerial Commission concluded its meetings here yesterday.

The three-day meetings had been led by Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman and his Central African counterpart, Clement Michel Nga Gnii-Voeto.

A joint communique issued after the meetings said the two sides discussed bilateral relations, cooperation between the two countries, border problems and ways to curtail elephant poaching and ivory smuggling.

The communique said the two sides had initialled a trade and customs accord aimed at halting activities which were harming the Sudanese and Central African economies.

They also took preliminary steps towards an agreement on cooperation in the fields of security, land and air transport, posts and telecommunications, health and culture, according to the communique.

It was the third joint commission meeting since Khartoum and Bangui signed a cooperation agreement in April 1977. The next meeting is set for January 1986, here.

CHAD

FAO: Food Shipping Problems To 'Seriously Limit' Aid

AB270922 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Ndjamena, Jan 27 (AFP) — The difficulty of shipping food to landlocked Chad, along with the poor state of the country's roads, will seriously limit the international aid available to the country's famine-stricken regions, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says.

In a report released here this weekend, the FAO said the transportation problems meant that only 110,000 tonnes of food aid could be distributed in Chad this year. The country's food deficit is expected to total 296,000 tonnes.

Late last year, the FAO said that 200,000 Chadians were faced with possible starvation because of prolonged drought, particularly in the north. U.N. officials have estimated that 150,000 to 400,000 Chadians have been forced into refugee camps by the drought.

The FAO report said that in order to get international food aid to the country by sea, Chad relies on the Cameroonian port of Douala, 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) from Ndjamena, and the Nigerian port of Lagos-Apapa, 2,200 kilometers (1,400 miles) away. Once in Lagos, food aid must be shipped by truck to Chad, a trip which takes five to seven days and which costs 150 dollars per tonne.

From Douala, the food is moved by train and truck to the Chari River, which forms the border between northeastern Cameroon and Chad. The FAO said the Chari represents a major bottleneck in the delivery system. Only two freight ferries currently ply the river, limiting possible aid shipments to 12,000 tonnes per month, the report said. A temporary floating bridge is due to open early next month. This should improve the situation, the report added, but plans to build a permanent structure have been held up by

resistance from the Cameroon Government. Cameroonian officials finally agreed in August to allow a permanent bridge to be put up over the Chari, but construction is not due to begin until next year.

The FAO report when on to say that once inside Chad, which has no rail system, aid distribution is dependent on 900 trucks, including 112 heavy vehicles supplied by the FAO. The total carrying capacity of the trucks is only 10,000 tonnes per month, while actual aid distribution is reduced further by the poor state of Chad's roads, particularly during the rainy season which begins in June. The FAO also cited security problems in southern Chad, which, it says, have prevented effective aid distribution in the region.

GABON

President Blames Foreigners for Social Ills

AB281827 Paris AFP in French 1351 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Libreville, 28 Jan (AFP) — Omar Bongo, president of Gabon, has, in an attempt to stop prostitution in his country, boldly "authorized" the security forces to arrest prostitutes and hand them over to the Gabonese "soldiers." In a speech made to officers of the National Gendarmerie at the presidential palace a few days ago, Mr Bongo said: "Dear officers, take your vans, round them (the prostitutes) up, and after examining them give them as prey to the soldiers." "In that way, he added, when five or six soldiers have used them, these women will then understand that one must not prostitute oneself in Gabon." In this same speech, published in full on Monday by the national daily, *L'UNION*, President Bongo considered that women who sell their bodies on Gabonese soil "are merely" foreigners. Mr Bongo also firmly called on ambassadors — whose names he did not mention — "some of whose fellow citizens" are prostitutes, to adopt quick measures to stop their activities.

The Gabonese president also attacked foreigners who "enter Gabon and leave as they wish" to "sow seeds of disharmony among the Gabonese" and to "murder the national economy." Mr Bongo ordered the security forces to increase their checks in shops and systematically drive out all illegal expatriate traders. He was referring in particular to the "Lebanese" nationals who, he said, "rob us." "Where the small Gabonese can sell tomatoes you will find the Lebanese, the very people who should rather be putting up buildings," Mr Bongo said, adding, "their shops are well stocked and yet one does not know how they imported their goods. The customs department is losing money and the state as well." Mr Bongo also asserted that the beggars and fetish priests are also foreigners so they must be expelled as well.

The tone of this presidential speech surprised observers in Libreville because of its virulence. According to them, Mr Bongo's words seem to suggest that most of the ills in the Gabonese society are caused by foreigners and that it is necessary for the government therefore to adopt harsh measures today to stop the spread of these ills.

Further on Bongo Remarks

AB270730 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Libreville, Jan 26 (AFP) — Gabonese President Omar Bongo has called on national security forces to chase out foreigners who come to Gabon illegally.

In a speech to police officers yesterday, he said some foreign nationals were "entering and leaving Gabon as they wished" in order to "sow disorder and rob the Gabonese people." He particularly criticised the Lebanese, who he said came to Gabon illegally to pursue "anarchic trading."

President Bongo told the officers to "go from shop to shop" where no Gabonese people worked and seize goods that had been smuggled into the country, and promised them 10 percent of the value of the goods involved.

Observers here said the Gabonese security forces had stepped up document checks, especially on the roads.

Gabon, which has a relatively healthy economy and a low population density, has a high proportion of foreign residents, notably Europeans, Lebanese and Africans.

ZAIRE

Brussels Reports State, Party 'Reshuffle'

LD281608 Brussels Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] In Zaire, there has been a winter reshuffle in the body of the highest authorities of the state and the sole party, the Popular Movement of the Revolution [MPR]. President Mobutu intends, it seems, to strengthen the authority of the main leaders of the country and the party. The number of members of the MPR Central Committee has been decreased from 120 to 80. The chief of staff of the Army will from now be a part of it. On the other hand, five ministers leave the Central Committee. As to the new Politburo, it will consist of 14 members, compared to 20 previously. These decisions come within the framework of a series of reshuffles which have already affected Zairean diplomacy, the management of the regions and the Army, and which is to continue further at government level.

Trade Minister To Head Strike-Ridden Transport Office

AB270804 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Kinshasa, Jan 27 (AFP) — Zaire's External Trade Minister Lukusa Muengula was named Saturday to head the National Transport Office (Onatra), whose 20,000 workers have been on strike since Monday. The strike has paralysed Matadi, the sole seaport, and freight movements between there and the capital and along the River Zaire, almost halving exports of copper, the main source of foreign currency earnings.

The strike began when the government made it clear it would block a plan by Onatra's now dismissed Belgian managing director, Honore Paelinck, to increase the company's wage bill by 50 percent this year, relying on higher tariffs to finance it.

President Mobutu Sese Seko told a meeting of the 300 Onatra trade union delegates yesterday that it was out of the question to accept any wage rises above an average of 25 percent. To do so would contravene engagements made to the International Monetary Fund, he said.

Mr Paelinck told the same meeting he had wanted to boost the wages of the lowest paid within the 50 percent increase of the overall wage bill, which he calculated would have risen by 335 million zaires (8.5 million dollars). He had also wanted to reduce the number of salary grades, currently 15.

State radio, reporting Mr Paelinck's dismissal later, accused him of irresponsibility and demagogy. It did not say what the union leaders had decided about the strike after President Mobutu's talk.

Strikers To Resume Work

AB281657 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1345 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Jan (AZAP) — After 6 days of strike, the workers of the National Transportation Office, Onatra, have resumed work this morning as promised to President Mobutu, the founding-chairman of the Popular Movement of the Revolution, MPR. They have also promised to cooperate with the new managing director of Onatra.

The trade union leaders have been asked to inform the workers of their respective sections of the main points of the negotiations which took place last Saturday at the Cite du Parti at N'sele with the head of state and the Onatra delegation.

The discontent which spread within Onatra was due to the lack of objective information from the employer concerning the pay policy which was carried out by the Executive Council in accordance with the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund.

ROK Envoy Calls on State Commissioner for Information

AB281913 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1726 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Jan (AZAP) — Citizen Sakombi Inongo, state commissioner for information, mobilization, propaganda and political action, on Monday received Mr Chon Suk-yu, ambassador of the Republic of Korea, who paid him a courtesy visit.

The Korean diplomat expressed his "joy at representing his government in a great promising country which, under the guidance of its leader, has a bright future." For his part, the state commissioner expressed to the ambassador "the Executive Council's desire to further strengthen cooperation ties with the Republic of Korea, a country with which the Republic of Zaire has already developed fruitful exchange in various fields."

The two men discussed the imperative need for the establishment of active cooperation in the field of the mass media through information exchange between the Zairian and Korean press agencies and the exchange of educational, cultural, and entertainment programs between the three Korean television channels and the Zairian Radio and Television Office.

Briefs

New Envoy From Cameroon — Kinshasa, 25 Jan (AZAP) — The state commissioner for arts and culture, Citizen Masegabio Nzanzu, received yesterday in his office Martin Mbarga Nguele, Cameroon's ambassador to Zaire, who paid him a courtesy call. This was after the Cameroonian ambassador had presented his letters of credence to President Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. [Text] [*Kinshasa AZAP in French 0730 GMT 25 Jan 85 AB*]

Gambia River Development Organization Meeting Opens

AB281816 Dakar PANA in French 1725 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Bissau, 28 Jan (ANG/PANA) — The sixth summit of heads of state of the Gambia River Development Organization (OMVG) began its deliberations this morning in Bissau in the presence of Presidents Dawda Jawara of Gambia, Joao Bernardo Vieira Nino of Guinea-Bissau, and Abdou Diouf of Senegal. Guinea-Conakry is represented by its foreign minister, Facine Toure. At the opening session this morning, Sir Dawda Jawara proposed President Joao Bernardo Vieira Nino to be the chairman of the organization. The current chairman is Colonel Lansana Conte of Guinea-Conakry, whose term of office expires with this sixth summit.

BURKINA

Foreign Affairs Minister Leaves for Paris

AB281718 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] At the invitation of his French counterpart, Christian Nucci, minister of cooperation and development, our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Basile Guissou, left Ouagadougou today for Paris. This official visit will probably provide an opportunity for the two ministers to complete the draft agreement on Franco-Burkinabe cooperation. Since Mr Nucci's last visit to Ouagadougou, many signs of good will on both sides show that a new era has dawned in Franco-Burkinabe relations.

GHANA

Government Denies 'Lively Business' With Israel

AB281650 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The government says its attention has been drawn to an article in the 12 January issue of the London-based magazine *ECONOMIST* which listed Ghana among a number of black African countries doing lively business with Israel, despite their public hostility to that country.

An official statement in Accra today made it clear that from the time of the break in diplomatic relations between Ghana and Israel, in response to the decision of the OAU, the government has had no dealings with Israel. It has refused to reopen diplomatic relations with her or encourage Israeli commercial acitivity in Ghana.

The story, as far as it relates to Ghana, is therefore completely false, since there is no such lively business transaction between Ghana and Israel at the present time, and none is contemplated for the future.

The statement pointed out that until a just solution for the Middle East is found, Ghana's resolve to support the Arab cause remains absolute. This solution should include the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for a state of their own.

Agreements on Subregional Security Ratified

AB282138 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Ghana today ratified the three agreements on security matters concluded and signed in Lagos last month by the heads of state of Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, and Togo. They are the extradition treaty, the criminal investigation cooperation agreement, and the agreement on mutual administrative matters in matters related to customs, trade, and immigration.

An official statement issued in Accra recalled that in response to a deeply felt need to cooperate to combat the activities of common criminals, car burglars, smugglers, and others who have been operating with ease in the area, the initiative was taken by the Government of the Republic of Togo to host a ministerial and an experts meeting in the Togolese capital. At that meeting, the various grounds were worked and later adopted at the ministerial level. These were then sent to the various heads of state for consideration. The signing ceremony took place in Lagos.

It was, incidentally, also Chairman Rawlings' first official visit to the sister state of Nigeria. It provided the occasion to a fresh interchange of ideas among brothers. Ghana's ratification once again proves her (?lone) commitment to African unity as well as the seriousness which Ghana attaches to such African matters. The statement said with the ratification by Ghana, all the four countries have now ratified the agreement.

IVORY COAST

Working Sessions With Cameroonian Delegation Noted

AB281155 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 28 Jan 85 p 23

[Excerpts] The Cameroonian head of state has returned to Yaounde. His command aircraft left Yamoussoukro on Saturday shortly after 1600. President Houphouet-Boigny himself made it a point to accompany his guest to the airport. He was also at the airport on Wednesday, the day Mr Biya arrived in the Ivorian capital for a visit which was scheduled to last 3 days, but which lasted 4 days.

On the 3d day of Mr Biya's visit, he was in Abidjan, the former Ivorian capital. While President Biya was in Abdijan, three commissions consisting of Cameroonian and Ivorian delegates held a meeting in Yamoussoukro.

They did not issue a communique at the end of their deliberations, but it seems that in the group on foreign affairs the discussions touched particularly on the situation in Africa, namely the OAU, the controversial admission of the SDAR into the pan-African organization, Chad, southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, and security problems. According to some sources, there was a "complete similarity of views." Meanwhile, April has been set as the date for the upcoming meeting of the grand joint commission for cooperation in Ivory Coast.

A second working group examined the question of agriculture, and the Cameroonian minister of agriculture, who joined his country's delegation on Thursday, held talks with his Ivorian counterpart. During the working session they held along with their close collaborators, they essentially brought up the upcoming visit to Ivory Coast of a team of Cameroonian experts whose task will be the preparations for the official visit the Cameroonian minister will make to our country. The visit will make it possible to strengthen the already exemplary relations in this field. As a matter of fact, Ivory Coast and Cameroon are members of a number of African organizations dealing with coffee, cocoa, timber, and bananas. At certain international forums, they defend the same views and they want to continue to do so.

The third and last working group examined the questions of town planning and housing. In this regard, Cameroon, which is very interested in the Ivorian example, both in cities and villages, would like to benefit from our experience.

Ivorian-Cameroonian relations, which have always been excellent, will only be further improved by this friendly and working visit. As a matter of fact, Cameroonian head of state Paul Biya showed throughout his visit his complete willingness to further strengthen the good ties between our two countries.

MALI

Interior Minister Discusses Drought Situation

AB251954 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Excerpts] After the meeting of exchange of views held last Tuesday between the National Commission for Assistance to Drought Victims and the Technical Committee of Donors, Lieutenant Colonel Abderhamane Maiga, minister of interior and chairman of the National Commission for Assistance to Drought Victims, has granted an interview to our reporter Diboun Bodge. First, the minister described the current general situation brought about by the drought in the country:

[Begin Maiga recording] The agricultural campaign for 1984-1985, like the three previous ones, has again been poor because of the very bad climatic conditions. The present agricultural campaign is marked by precipitation that is lower than the average. The rains have been too scanty in some areas to enable grain to grow. Thus, in the Saharan region the situation is more critical. The scanty rainfalls of September had very little effect on the already dying plants. The pastures of the Gao and Timbuktu regions as well as those of the northern sectors of the First and Second Regions of our country show sad signs of a drought that has lasted for several years in succession. In some places, breeders have lost all their cattle, while in others farmers watch their plow animals die.

In conclusion, we can say that an average of 60 percent of the population are currently affected by the drought. Here is a breakdown of the numbers affected:

First Region: 55.9 percent of the population are victims of the drought; Fourth Region: 54.8 percent; Sixth Region: 55.9 percent; Second Region: 55.8 percent; Fifth Region: 55.9 percent; Seventh Region: 58.2 percent.

The exodus of people from the north to the south is put at more than 100,000 persons. [end recording]

NIGER

Kountche Receives OAU Interim Secretary General

AB251508 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The head of state, General Seyni Kountche, this morning received in audience the OAU interim secretary general, Mr Peter Onu, and Baba-Moussa, the president of the West African Development Bank.

At the end of the audience, Mr Onu said that he was leading an OAU delegation to inquire about the situation prevailing in the country and to get information on the drought situation in Niger.

NIGERIA

Idiagbon Interviewed on National Issues

AB281645 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Interview with Major General Tunde Idiagbon, chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, on "some important national issues" by unidentified reporter of Radio Nigeria's current affairs program "Matters of the Moment" on 27 January in Lagos – live]

[Text] [Reporter] Listeners, in this edition, we are going to take a look at the 1985 budget, which is the first independent budget of the Federal military administration. We shall examine Decree 34, now popularly known as Private Practice Decree, and the continued shrinking of the social and economic potential of civil servants. We shall also take a look about the [words indistinct] given to some of the last batch of freed former politicians and a host of other pertinent issues. But first the budget. Chief of Staff, Sir, the 1985 budget is the first independent fiscal measures of the present military administration and so members of the public are bound to look at the Federal Military Government through the stipulations of the budget. There are two main areas that have raised eyebrows considerably. One is that in spite of its avowal to keep government spending within available means, the budget scheme is a deficit one. The other is the back-pedaling of government about owning foreign accounts, the banning of which most Nigerians thought served as a blockade to pilfering of the naira and dwindling of the foreign exchange. What has happened to cause such a full turn to the opposite direction?

[Idiagbon] The 1985 budget is a deficit one in the sense that as the recurrent surplus available for capital development is inadequate for that purpose, the capital expenditure [words indistinct] current surplus of 1.3 billion naira, internal loan of 2.3 billion naira from the Central Bank of Nigeria, and external loan of 2.2

billion naira. This relatively small recurrent surplus for capital development was partly due to the fact that we had to make adequate provision in the 1985 budget for the servicing and repayment of existing debts. While loans were previously applied indiscriminately for almost all capital projects, whether viable or not, the internal loans for 1985 budget will be used for the completion of specific capital projects, whether viable or not. The internal loan for the 1985 budget will be used for the completion of specific capital projects with linkages which should facilitate the quick recovery of the economy.

The deficit budget of this time is justifiable. The Federal Government has decided that no external borrowing for new projects should be undertaken in 1985 fiscal year except for projects considered absolutely necessary in the public interest. Regular [word indistinct] will be made on external loans which are acquired for specific projects.

There is hope that [words indistinct] by government on the rules governing the owning and operation of foreign accounts by Nigerians, particularly public officers. We believe that the (?absence) of a scheme such as the proposed foreign currency accounts has led to wastage of foreign exchange by residents in Nigeria who tend to divest themselves of the balance of foreign currency in their possession before returning home rather than surrender such foreign currency within 48 hours of arrival in Nigeria in accordance with the law. The Federal Military Government decided to allow residents in Nigeria to open and operate foreign currency accounts because it will provide them with the facility to keep their foreign currency in the country and subsequently use it to meet their (?optional) commitments, thereby assisting to enlarge the volume of imported goods and services. Although the opening and operation of foreign currency accounts is a innovation in Nigeria, countries like Egypt, Malta, Indonesia, and many other countries operate this system with success.

The policies of this administration are dictated by what we consider to be in the best interest of the nation and its people.

[Reporter] Chief of Staff, I would like to direct our attention to Decree No 34 which, you will agree with me, has gathered a lot of debate, and that is the Private Practice Amendment Decree which does not seem to go down well with most Nigerians. The argument is that in a country where most professionals are in short supply, the ban on private practice goes to compound the problems posed by lack of professional services, especially in the medical field. Is there really any good defense for this ban on private practice at this point in time?

[Idiagbon] Yes, Decree No 34 Regulated and Other Professionals Defense 1984 Decree is what is left of the Regulated and Other Professions Act of 1978, popularly known as the Private Practice Decree, as affected by a decree of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979. It permits newly qualified professionals to go into private practice if they so desire. The decree also realigns certain provisions of the (?Controll Act to continue and enforce the ban on public officers from engaging in private practice.

The primary objective of the decree is to allow qualified professionals to engage in self-employment without having to serve the (?populace) for 5 years in order to reduce the pressure on the employment situation in the country. You may recall that the 1978 decree had imposed a 5-year ban on newly qualified professionals before they could set up their own private ventures. You would agree with me that rather than compounding the problems of shortage of qualified professionals services, the new decree seeks to encourage private enterprise. However, there can be no justification for professionals in the public service to engage in private practice whether or not after their normal hours of work or on work-free days. In the overall interest of the public service and to avoid divided loyalty, they should devote all their attention to the public they have chosen to serve.

[Reporter] Another area that has generated so much interest, Chief of Staff, is the area that revolves around civil servants who, as it were, already seem to be getting the full brunt of the economic slump which in the first place was no fault of theirs. Thousands of them have lost their jobs and those of them that are left have had their fringe benefits slashed or cut while others are being threatened with most stringent measures. Does this not seem too hard on the working class? What hope can they look forward to as time rolls by and with our unemployment figures swollen by the retrenchment? What alternative to civil service jobs is the government proposing so as not to expose the victims to the temptation of the underworld movement?

[Idiagbon] The government action in the review of fringe benefits of civil servants and other public officers has been dictated by the present harsh economic realities in the country. In a situation where more than 60 percent of the government revenue is spent on salaries and fringe benefits of public officers, there is a need to determine the relevance or otherwise of such fringe benefits so that savings may be made, if possible. In fact, all the fringe benefits abolished are completely out of tune with our present circumstances.

With regard to the problem of unemployment generally, the report of the Committee on Gainful Employment already submitted to government is receiving active consideration. It is expected that its recommendations will provide usefull ideas for tackling the problem.

[Reporter] At this juncture, I would like us to have a retrospective quick look about ourselves, that is the present administration. The first year of the present administration can be described as a period of consolidation, reconstruction, and recharting of the nation's course. Apart from the fiscal measures ennunciated, what are going to be the areas of emphasis this second year of your administration?

[Idiagbon] As mentioned in the 1985 budget speech, the major areas of emphasis this fiscal year will be the provision of food for all Nigerians and raw materials for industries, manufacturing of agro-allied and essential commodities, as well as improvement in the generation and the distribution of power throughout the country, especially in the rural areas. Generally speaking, our primary objective this fiscal year is to provide food cheaply, ensure the proper maintenance of existing infrastructural facilities and thereby uplift the living conditions of our people. To this end, a sum of 1.6 billion naira, which represents over 18 percent of the total capital budget for 1985, has been allocated to the

agricultural sector as a whole. Similarly, more power stations are being built while existing ones are being maintained in order to guarantee improved and more regular power supply to both the urban and rural areas.

[Reporter] There is another issue, that is about the political detainees that have just been released, that has been catching on so much with members of the public. You see, Sir, in releasing the last part of the political detainees, the government ordered that some of them should refund various sums of money as precondition for their total freedom. These sums are ill-gotten and have been the reason why some other former politicians have been jailed or are still being held. Does this new stand of government not amount to soft pedaling and display of double standards?

[Idiagbon] No, I don't think so. The administration is neither soft pedaling nor applying double standards. The release is consistent with the amnesty which the head of state gave on the occasion of his address to the nation on the first 100 days of the present administration.

You will recall that on that occasion he said, inter alia, that perhaps the persons accused of offenses triable by the special military tribunals will be arraigned before the tribunals, whether they are in the country or outside the country.

The release is also a sequel to the administration's pledge that no person will be kept in detention a day longer than necessary, a pledge recently repeated during the 1985 budget speech by the head of state.

These people who are being asked to refund various sums of money are those that have taken advantage of their position in government, companies and banks to take loans and other advances which they are now being required to repay. Others are those who have collected mobilization fees for contracts which they could not execute either because of inability of the awarding government or consultant to secure sites or because of lack of executive capacity and mismanagement of funds by the contractors. These are different from the clear cases of forgery, deliberate stealing or criminal misappropriation of public funds, which are being tried by the military tribunals.

Of course, there are those whose assets have been found to be in excess of their legitimate income and bank loans, but I don't think anybody has come forward to make specific claims of forgery, stealing, misappropriation, or corruption. This category of detainees were released on the condition that they pay to government coffers the unexplained assets in excess of their legitimate income.

[Reporter] Still on the federal military administration and its modus operandi; in all the states under the federal level there seems to be too many panels working on one subject of our national endeavor or the other. I suppose the idea is to ensure that government gets expert advice on what to do, for the listeners who have written in think the panels have become too many (?now) and that the phenomenon is making a mockery of military rule. What are your comments?

[Idiagbon] It is true that the primary concern in setting up the seven study groups is to get expert advice and [words indistinct] problem and how to tackle them. I do not think that seven study groups are too many, because the areas covered by them represent major areas of government activity that need to be carefully studied and appraised if we are to make any meaningful progress in our efforts to revive the economy and improve the living condition of our people.

Moreover, one of the most common criticisms of the government is that it does not involve experts in its formulation and implementation of policies in areas crucial to the administration and the economy. Therefore, the exercise does not make a mockery of the military regime, especially since we have never claimed a monopoly of knowledge. Rather, it helps the administration to tap and make the use of the reservoir of knowledge of competent Nigerians who are experts in various fields.

[Reporter] Sir, I would like to take your mind back a little bit to last year. Sometime last year, you gave a hint in one of our programs that the Ministry of Finance was working out an incentive that will be coordinated to the rural and urban sites for industries. Perhaps the ministry would have finished by now and the listening public could be informed of the latest developments.

[Idiagbon] The idea of incentive for rural siting of industries is to encourage industrialists to site their operations in economically disadvantaged areas and to avoid overcrowding of industries in a few urban areas like Lagos, Ibadan, Benin city, Kano, Kaduna, Enugu, and Port Harcourt.

This objective is at present being achieved through the instrumentality of locational approval, development of infrastructural facilities in areas hitherto inaccessible, and [words indistinct] to minimize the adverse effects of infrastructural inadequacies and the extra costs of transportation of imported materials to be utilized. To further streamline the administration of the incentives, the government has additionally approved the establishment of a policy analysis bureau and an industrial planning and commission unit in the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industries. This unit, which will take off this fiscal year, will work out details of resources in the industrial sector.

[Reporter] Another issue that has generated so much interest is this 100 naira levy on tickets outside Africa. There are some various reactions to it. The minister of finance has been holding a series of meetings with airline executives and all those concerned about the levy, but he does not seem to be too convincing to the airline chiefs. The greatest area of contention is the amount being charged. The generality of people think it is too high. What allowance can the public (?get)?

[Idiagbon] The honorable minister of finance held a series of meetings with the airline executives and their agents in respect of the levy on air tickets for journeys outside Africa. The (?response) by the airlines and their executives has been very good, encouraging, and very much in support of the law, and they have made several useful suggestions on the modalities of collecting the levy.

The proportion of the population traveling outside Africa is about 5 percent and a levy on 5 percent of the population has a minimum effect on the possible income of the population in general. The complaint that the levy is too high should not be given undue [word indistinct]. In fact, many people are of the opinion that the levy is too small and have suggested an alternative levy of 4 percent on air fares. It is informative to compare the fares in other African countries which have similar levies, namely Ghana and Kenya: 6 percent on air fares; while the rate in other areas is about 16 percent.

The minister of finance has made it abundantly clear that diplomats and children below the age of 2 years are exempted from the levy, while consideration may be given to the airline staff on active duty with their airlines [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Sir, this program has come to an end again but, before we pack up and call our interview quit, I would like you to [words indistinct].

[Idiagbon] I would like to remind all Nigerians of the third phase of the War Against Indiscipline, which was recently launched in Port Harcourt, against corruption and economic sabotage, by the minister of internal affairs. I appeal to all Nigerians to expose all those engaged in corrupt practices or acts dangerous to the national economy, wherever they may be. [Words indistinct] some of the worst offenders are dubious businessmen who, in their mad rush to gain undue advantage, will stop at nothing to corrupt public officers [passage indistinct].

[Reporter] So listeners, you heard it loud and clear from the horse's mouth. On that note, I will say thank you very much to the chief of staff for (?granting us) this interview.

[Idiagbon] Thank you very much.

Further on Communique on Talks With Bulgaria
AB281743 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The Nigeria-Bulgaria Joint Commission is to continue playing an active role in the coordination of economic relations between the two countries.

In a communique issued in Lagos at the end of their bilateral talks, the two countries reaffirmed their support for the commission and stressed that new areas of cooperation exist for further exploration. The communique was initialed by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, and the Bulgarian prime minister, Mr Grisha Filipov. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the present level of cooperation between the two countries and renewed their government's support and commitment to the strengthening of bilateral relations. They emphasized the need for increased exchange of visits at ministerial and official levels so as to enhance the gains already made in all areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Major General Idiagbon and Mr Filipov reviewed the international situation and agreed that the positions of their countries on the issues of the time are similar. Both leaders reaffirmed their belief in the peaceful resolution of international issues and welcomed the recent talks in Geneva between the Soviet Union and the United States.

On the South African issue, the chief of staff and the Bulgarian prime minister reaffirmed their support for the just struggle of the oppressed people in the region and called for strict observation of the relevant United Nations resolutions on apartheid. They also reiterated their solidarity for the people of Namibia in their just struggle for independence under the leadership of SWAPO. The two leaders called for the immediate and unconditional implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 and rejected any linkage of the territory's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Lagos on Interference in African Union Movement
AB251140 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Ishola Dada commentary]

[Text] One of the problems impeding progress in inter-African endeavors these days is foreign interference in the affairs of the continent. Many laudable ventures or ideas which should have made Africa a fitting and peaceful place to live in have been wrecked by international conspiracy and foreign interference. When a political crisis erupted in Congo Leopoldville, now Zaire, in 1961, African countries came up with various conflicting formulae which could be reconciled to produce an acceptable solution to all. But sooner than was expected, foreign interests infiltrated the rank and file of the Congolese elite and those of other African countries. These international interests conspired with their local surrogates inside and outside Congo to murder Lumumba in order to continue to perpetuate their grip on the economy of that country. Similarly, for almost two decades now, foreign interests have been preventing peace from reigning in Chad. They are doing exactly the same thing today in the Western Sahara.

Preparations for the conference of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity [OATUU] currently holding in Lagos seem to have provided the foreign interests with yet another opportunity to vent their spleen on Africa. Only a few days before the conference started, African capitals were agog with all sorts of rumors no doubt designed to sow the seeds of discord among African labor leaders. There was a story that the conference would once again be postponed while another story had it that the CIA was involved in a conspiracy to infiltrate the leadership of the OATUU.

Of course, there is no doubt that there could be some element of truth in the allegation of foreign interference in the affairs of the organization considering the importance of the trade unions in the affairs of the African countries. Here in Nigeria, like in other African countries such as Kenya and Uganda, we witnessed in

the fifties and sixties the polarization of central labor unions into ideological camps, with one being pro-West and the other pro-East. Such polarization bred suspicion, dissipation of energy, and lack of cohesion.

Nigeria's head of state, General Muhammadu Buhari, hit the nail on the head when he in his message to the OATUU conference on Monday said that bickerings, ideological differences, and externally induced conflicts characterized the organization in its early stages and advised African labor leaders not to allow the imperialists to distract them from the pursuit of their goals.

We cannot but agree with the Nigerian leader that the OATUU has the capability to achieve its aims and objectives credibly. This optimism is born out of the fact that the organization has made some progress in the past few years, at least in uniting African trade unions. This has in turn led to industrial peace in most parts of the continent and increased productivity in others. It is therefore hoped that the new leadership that will emerge at the end of this conference will be one that is dedicated to the cause of unity and the African trade union movement.

SENEGAL

Diouf Holds Talks on Senegal River Organization

AB252130 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The Mauritanian minister of equipment and transport and current chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Senegal River Development Organization [OMVS] was received by President Abdou Diouf this afternoon. Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane took the opportunity to discuss OMVS issues with President Diouf. Following the audience, the minister spoke to our reporter Yoro Oumar Diallo:

[Begin N'Diayane recording] In fact, I have just been received by President Abdou Diouf. You are aware that I am the current chairman of the Council of Ministers of the OMVS and that the Senegalese head of state is the current chairman of the Conference of Heads of States. My visit, therefore, was to make contact with him. As you know, an OMVS summit is scheduled to take place in Nouakchott at the end of March and we discussed preparations for this summit. I also took the opportunity to convey to President Abdou Diouf the greetings of his friend and brother, Maaouyia Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and Mauritanian head of state. [end recording]

Arab League's Klibi Arrives for Visit

AB252102 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Chedli Klibi, scretary general of the League of Arab States, arrived in Dakar this afternoon and was welcomed by Ibrahima Fall, minister of foreign affairs, as well as by a delegation of ambassadors of the Arab League. The secretary of the Arab League recalled the dynamic role Senegal has been playing on the African scene, adding that Senegal occupies a prominent place in Arab-African cooperation, thanks to the dynamism of its people and the authoritative posture of President Abdou Diouf.

TOGO

Eyadema Receives Burkina Minister, Sankara Message

AB290835 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpt] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People, who attended the final funeral rites for his mother, returned to Lome this morning from Pya, his hometown. Soon after returning to Lome, the president of the Republic received, at his private residence in Lome District II, a 5-member Burkinabe delegation led by the Burkina minister of economic promotion, Captain Henri Zongo. The Burkina delegation delivered a message from President Thomas Sankara to President Eyadema. Let us listen to what the Burkina minister of economic promotion had to say after his meeting with Gen Eyadema.

[Begin Zongo recording] I would first like to thank His Excellency President Eyadema for receiving us so quickly in spite of his schedule, which is certainly heavy. I think that the quick reception he gave us is a sign of the friendship and concern he has for the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and especially the Burkinabe people.

I would like to say that the Burkinabe are not flitting from capital to capital — far from it. We are merely trying to strengthen the ties that fortunately exist already between all the member states of the Entente Council. It is within this precise framework that we, the envoys of the CNR comrade and chairman, are visiting neighboring countries such as Togo, Ivory Coast, and Benin. Therefore, it only in the framework of these fortunate relations, as I mentionned earlier, existing between member states of the Entente Council. [end recording]

Gambia's Jawara Stops Over, Comments on Mideast Trip

AB281025 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Sir Dawda Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia, yesterday afternoon made a 45-minute technical stopover in Lome. The Gambian leader was returning from a trip to Libya, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. President Jawara was welcomed on arrival by Kpotivi Tevi-Djidjogbe Lacle, member of the Political Bureau and minister of interior, representing the head of state. Also present were senior officers of the Togolese Army, members of the Central Committee, and a delegation of the Gambian community in Togo.

In a statement shortly before his departure, the Gambian leader said he was happy to be in Lome on a stopover, which was a testimony of the cordial relations between the two countries and the friendship between him and President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

His great joy, he stressed, can also be explained notably by the warm reception accorded him in our capital.

Concerning his visits to the Middle East, particularly to Libya, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, President Jawara said that in his capacity as current chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], he and the heads of state of these countries discussed ways to find an end to the war between Iran and Iraq, two member countries of the ICO.

The Gambian head of state added that he was on his way to Bissau to participate in the summit of heads of state of member countries of the Gambian River Development Organization [OMVG], which groups Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Senegal, and Gambia.

ANGOLA

Officer Discusses Air Force Activities

MB270937 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] An ever increasing need for cadres in the Angolan Air Force was the theme of an interview Major (Manuel Vieira Dias Copelita), the regional commander of the 5th Miliary Region of the People's Air Force of Angola-Air Defense [FAPA-DAA], granted to the Huila regional station. He noted that it is not easy to recruit military cadres to the Air Force, and recalled that the most advanced air force in the world concentrates more than 25 percent of the country's military personnel.

While outlining the recent development of FAPA-DAA, Maj (Copelita) said that the Air Force is far from achieving this goal. For an independent country, which has been fighting a war since 1975, the results achieved have been very positive.

The commander of the 5th FAPA-DAA military region also said that in recent years FAPA-DAA has registered considerable successes in that region in the training of cadres, with the arrival in the 5th region of a great number of Angolan pilots and technicians who have graduated from training in the USSR.

Maj (Manuel Vieira Dias) said that today all of us can be satisfied with the results achieved in the field of aviation over the past 2 years.

FAPA-DAA commemorated the 9th anniversary of its creation on (?21) January. It has played an important role in the fight against the counterrevolutionaries and criminal UNITA gangs, as well as guaranteeing the inviolability of the Angolan air space.

Voice of Truth Says Dos Santos 'Pro-Angola'

MB251043 (Clandestine) Voice of Truth in Portuguese to Angola 2000 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] How many people are aware that our president is only 42 years old? In his New Year's message when he thanked all the peoplewho have wished him many years on his birthday, he said that this demonstrated that he was remembered and loved by many Angolans.

One should not doubt that the comrade president is a very young man and he is in charge of one of the most difficult countries in the region. It is not easy to govern a country such as Angola, but our comrade president is Angolan and he is pro-Angola. One of his key statements is: Angola should not adopt decisions or attitudes that would compromise its integrity. With this sentence, we can see that he is a man that is not interested in ruining Angola.

Our president has been involved in Angolan politics since his youth. He joined the MPLA party in the 1950's and he belonged to one of the groups which had to flee to Congo and later on to Brazzaville. Some years later, he went to Moscow where he graduated as a petroleum engineer. With the support of the Soviet Union, he has become a political leader and organizer among the Third World students. When he returned to Angola, he was in charge of the MPLA communications sector in the northern war front.

[Word indistinct] in Angola he was [word indistinct] an ally of our immortal leader, Dr Agostinho Neto. In 1975, he was appointed minister of foreign affairs in a then independent Angola. In 1979, in a space of 24 hours after the death of Dr Agostinho Neto, our immortal leader, he became the leader of our nation, our president.

His ascendency to power has drawn us more closely into the Soviet circle, but these men and this silent man, who works 18 hours daily, has confounded some of his critics. He has to guide and lead our people through the ideological and tribal differences.

Defense Forces 'Annihilate' 95 UNITA 'Criminals'

MB251450 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] A total of 95 UNITA criminals were annihilated by the Angolan national defense and security forces over a period of only 9 days in various Angolan provinces.

According to ANGOP, citing authorized military sources, the operations also led to the capture of 2 bandits and the release of 13 persons who had been kidnapped from the claws of the puppets. Various military items and documents were seized by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], who recovered 240 head of cattle that had been stolen by the UNITA bandits from the population.

The operations were carried out from 5 to 14 January in Bengo, Cuanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo, Moxico, Lunda Sul, and Huila Provinces.

In Huila, the military tribunal of the 5th region recently sentenced two UNITA bandits to death by firing squad on charges of treason to the fatherland. Another UNITA criminal was sentenced by the same tribunal to 16 years of hard labor. Those three UNITA bandits, who were captured by FAPLA, carried out various armed actions against members of the public.

KUP Says 300 Leave Luena After UNITA Attack

MB270808 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 27 Jan (KUP) — More than 300 people abandoned the city of Luena, capital of Moxico Province, this week, where they were living in captivity without food and shelter. Taking advantage of a deep thrust into Luena city by UNITA troops, a large number of civilians fled the city and returned to their former home, where they can till the land.

Many of the civilians now released are very thin and they are receiving [word indistinct] medical (?treatment).

Briefs

New Envoy From Spain — (Miguel Angel Mazarambraz) was appointed the new Spanish ambassador to Angola. The new ambassador was previously director general of a state fisheries department. [Excerpt] [*Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 25 Jan 85 MB*]

Polish Medical Donation — The Polish Embassy in Luanda donated 18 metric tons of medicine to the People's Republic of Angola to aid the war victims. The donation was delivered to Mr (Lino Ventura), general director of the central medicines depot, by the Polish Embassy. [Summary] [*Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Jan 85 MB*]

BOTSWANA

President Appoints New Cabinet Members

MB281156 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has reshuffled the Cabinet. The new Cabinet has three new faces and three previous members have been dropped.

The vice president, Mr Peter Mmusi, retains his portfolio of finance and development planning while his assistant, Mr Ponatshengo Kedikilwe, is transferred to the office of the president as minister for presidential affairs and public administration, the new title for what used to be called public service and information.

The former public service and information minister, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, has been appointed minister of agriculture replacing Mr Washington Meswele. Mr Kwelagobe will be assisted by the member of parliament for Ramotswa, Mr Geoffrey Oteng.

The member of parliament for Francistown, Mr Patrick Balopi, replaces Mr Lemme Makgekgene as minister of health. Mr David Magang, member of parliament for Kweneng East, is the new assistant minister of finance and development planning. The other ministers retained their portfolios.

Official on Gaborone as KGB Base, ANC Policy

LD262154 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] The Botswana Government has stated that it does not condone Botswana-based Soviet subversion against South Africa, nor does it permit ANC attacks on South Africa from its territory. Interviewed by Radio RSA in Maseru, the administrative secretary to the Botwanan president, Mr Lebang Mpotokwane, commented on French intelligence reports in which it claimed that the Soviets used Gaborone as a command post for KGB activities in southern Africa. He said he knew of no KGB agents in Botswana. Only accredited diplomats were engaged in normal diplomatic activity. He said he hoped the French intelligence reports would not have an adverse effect on relations between South Africa and Botswana. He said he believed the South African Government knew Botswana well enough to realize that there was no truth in the report and that there were not 250 Soviets at the mission. He said there were about seven Soviet diplomats, some technicians, and their wives and children.

Asked about the Botswana Government's policy regarding the ANC, Mr Mpotokwane said the organization was not allowed to use Botswana for attacks on South Africa. He said it had been made clear to the ANC also that it would not be allowed training bases in the country.

MADAGASCAR

Mitterrand Adviser Gives Message to President

MB281214 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Mr Guy Penne, President Mitterrand's adviser for African and Malagasy affairs, held talks with the president of the Republic at [word indistinct] this morning. Mr Guy Penne is bearing a message from President Mitterrand to President Didier Ratsiraka.

It should be recalled that Mr Guy Penne is presently on a working visit to Indian Ocean islands. (Maxime Gartir), a director in the office of the president, and Alain Bry, the French ambassador to Madagascar, were present at the talks.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo on U.S. Official's Visit, Comments

MB251546 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Frank Wisner, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, today completed a 5-day visit to Mozambique and flew to South Africa.

During the week, he held long meetings with the leaders of our country on prospects for peace in the region, particularly in Mozambique, where we experience the terror of armed banditry.

The talks on bilateral relations between Mozambique and the United States centered on the prevailing drought and famine, and the parties agreed that more aid is needed to reduce the burden on the population.

Frank Wisner expressed the belief that the food aid accord signed by him and Minister Jacinto Veloso on Wednesday is part of the U.S. response to Mozambique's needs.

Regarding that issue, the U.S. ambassador yesterday said that the Reagan administration expects the Congress to approve its proposal for an additional $500 million to support Africa's famine victims in an emergency situation. Mozambique is on the list of the 10 worst-hit countries.

I cannot say whether Mozambique will receive a major share of this additional fund, but after Ethiopia, where the situation is particularly serious, it is possible that Mozambique needs more aid than the other countries, John de Vos said.

Still on yesterday, Frank Wisner said with regard to the famine situation, which he witnessed in Mabote's rehabilitation center, in Inhambane Province, that the United States will study the possibility of sending a food product known as NCC [expansion unknown] to Mozambique. NCC is a cereal mixture widely recommended for feeding undernourished children.

When he was about to leave, Frank Wisner said that his visit to Mozambique was very useful from a U.S. point of view and that the talks were very satisfactory.

As he was on his way to South Africa, a journalist asked what he was going to tell the South African Government with regard to its continuous violations of the Nkomati Accord. Frank Wisner answered that he believed the U.S. role in this issue was to apply its influence in order to further enhance peace prospects. No objective will be attained by any disclosure I may make with regard to the content of our diplomatic contacts.

Asked whether he had discussed military cooperation with the Mozambican Government, Frank Wisner said no.

However, he stressed that military cooperation is part and parcel of bilateral relations as a whole and that the most important part was completed before his arrival in Mozambique.

Details on military cooperation will be made public once matters are finalized. However, Frank Wisner added, what this country needs is to get the peace process underway. We are committed to attaining peace.

Howard Wolpe, a most influential U.S. congressman, visited our country 2 weeks ago. He does not agree with President Reagan's policy of constructive engagement. In December 1984, Wolpe joined his voice to that of South African Bishop Desmond Tutu in saying that the policy of constructive engagement frees South Africa from its responsibilities with regard to the Namibian problem.

Speaking on this issue, diplomat Frank Wisner said that Howard Wolpe's opinion is one thing, while his government's position is another thing altogether. [Words indistinct] said: I do not see the past in the same light. Our policy has been reducing the gaps between governments. The United States is trying to reach an accord leading to Namibia's independence, an accord permitting South Africa to fulfill its obligations under Resolution No 435.

NAMIBIA

MPC To Discuss Constitutional Proposals

MB281418 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] It is reported from Windhoek that the Multiparty Conference is expected to discuss constitutional proposals for South-West Africa this week with a view to making representations to the South African Government.

Dr (Lukas de Vries), a spokesman for the conference, told the South African Broadcasting Corporation that the general assembly of the conference would meet again tomorrow after adjourning last week to give delegates the opportunity to hold informal talks.

About a year ago, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, appealed to the conference to come forward with concrete proposals on the constitutional future of South-West Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA

Three Party Leaders Introduce No Confidence Motions

MB281647 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The leader of the opposition in the House of Assembly, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, says the politics of the government are destroying the economy and the quality of life of all South Africans. Introducing a motion of no confidence in the House, he said the economic difficulties facing South Africa were not the result of the lower gold price, the drought, or the strong dollar but of the policies of the government over the past 37 years.

Two other motions of no confidence were introduced in Parliament today. In the House of Representatives, the leader of the opposition, Mr Dennis de la Cruz, introduced a motion of no confidence in the government and in the House of Delegates the leader of the opposition, Dr J.N. Reddy, proposed a motion of no confidence in the Council of Ministers of that house.

In his no confidence motion, Dr J.N. Reddy referred in particular to the Cato manor question, Indian education, transport and local government. He said that the Indian community would not accept the development of local government based on the Group Areas Act. Dr Reddy said that it was unfair to make the ordinary man pay for the luxury of ethnic local government.

Introducing his motion, Mr Dennis de la Cruz said that many people of color have suffered under laws such as the Race Classification Act, the Group Areas Act, and the Mixed Marriages Act. He said that these acts were unethical and un-Christian and had to be scrapped. He called for freedom of association of all people.

House of Assembly No Confidence Debate

Slabbert Proposes Motion

MB281409 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1355 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] House of Assembly, Jan 28, SAPA — The politics of the government was destroying the economy and quality of life of all South Africans, the leader of the opposition, Dr Van Zyn Slabbert, said today.

Proposing a motion of no confidence in the government, he said the government's policies over the past 37 years, and not the low gold price, the drought or a strong dollar, constituted the major enduring reason for the country's present difficulties.

"The simple, stark message is: the politics of this government is destroying the economy and quality of life of all the people in this land. Either we change the politics or we go under," Dr Slabbert said.

A year had passed since the constitutional referendum, the implementation of the new constitution, the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique and the overseas trip of the then prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha.

"Gone are all the promises, the extravagant claims, the misdirected euphoria and optimism. All that remains is the harsh reality of the present and the uncertainty of the future."

Dr Slabbert said government policies were destroying the economy by destroying the confidence of overseas and local investors in the stability of the country.

"And let me remind this government: without genuine growth, there will be nothing to finance even their most modest constitutional ambitions."

The clearest and most devastating sign of the loss of confidence had been the collapse of the rand against the dollar. The unprecedented interest rates imposed by the government should normally have kept the exchange rate stable in difficult times.

But the expected adjustment had not materialised. "The monetary tinkering within the political framework is not working, the old magic is not working," Dr Slabbert said. "The will, the resolve, the optimism of the business community has been sapped and weakened by policy shifts and changes of this government as recently as since the second half of last year."

As examples of these policy shifts, Dr Slabbert cited last September's disclosure of higher than expected government spending, the premature easing of interest rates at the end of November last year and their subsequent reversal; the "badly timed" introduction of perks tax; and the Durban consulate sit-in and its linking with the government's refusal to return four of its nationals to England for trial on arms smuggling charges.

Dr Slabbert also referred to the government's handling of unrest in black townships.

"I can come to no other conclusion than that the government is either unconscious of, or does not care about, the impact its handling of the unrest situation has made locally and overseas."

The decision to use the Defence Force in quelling unrest had sent shock waves throughout South Africa and the international community.

The constitution provided for use of the military to fight unrest but it had always been accepted that this would be resorted to only in exceptional circumstances, Dr Slabbert said.

"We cannot afford the Defence Force to become the focus of polarisation (between whites and blacks) by being seen as the upholder of a racial policy imposed by a white minority on a black majority."

Turning to fiscal policy, Dr Slabbert said the government has brought the credibility of its economic policy into question by calling on consumers to tighten their belts but not doing so itself.

"The Reserve Bank, which has tried to do a good job in very difficult circumstances, has had its monetary policy made to look stupid by the fiscal indisciplene of the government," he said.

The state's share of the gross domestic product had increased from 22.2 per cent to about 28 per cent from 1980 to 1984.

Arguments that the government had kept its deficit before borrowing to a reasonable percentage of nominal GDP and that it had financed this deficit in a non-inflationary way could be discounted by the fact that this limitation had been achieved at the cost of a massive increase in taxation of the private sector.

Dr Slabbert said money was being wasted on pass law raids, the administration of influx control, the unnecessary duplication of education facilities, the consolidation of black areas, financing of the self-governing and independent homelands, decentralisation, population registration and classification and labour and residential regulation.

All the indicators pointed to another increase in the inflation rate and it was no use shouting for market intervention and new controls in the hope that "monetary tinkering within the political framework could provide the magic to pull us out of our misery." "It is the framework that has to change, that is where the money is being wasted; that is where our confidence is being destroyed; that is where our money is being made worthless.

"In the final analysis, that is where the politics of this government is destroying the economy and the quality of life of all the people in this land," Dr Slabbert said.

Fundamental reform was needed to change laws that tried to separate people or underlined their inequality. Dr Slabbert proposed that government money be spent on:

— systematic urbanisation rather than influx control;
— planned community development rather than forced community removals;
— a rational, streamlined educational system rather than on duplicated, ineffective educational structures;
— established economic industrial growth in existing metropolitan areas rather than ideological economic decentralisation in outlying areas.

Dr Slabbert praised the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, for his commitment to the removal of certain discriminatory statutes during his speech opening parliament last Friday.

But the leader of the opposition said Mr Botha's remarks should not be seen as the end of a process but as the beginning of a new and meaningful debate on fundamental reform.

There were many vague areas and contradictions in the president's speech but, Dr Slabbert said, he would support a "yes" vote if Mr Botha called a referendum of all South Africans to test whether his latest speech constituted a step in the right direction.

Fundamental change would not be easy but would ultimately be better than increasing poverty and violence, Dr Slabbert said.

"Therefore all of us, white and black, must prepare ourselves for a period of sacrifice and dedication. In this respect, the government will have to set the most important example.

"And if the government does this, in the light of these utterances of the president, I would call on especially black leaders and groups not to summarily dismiss these comments but to investigate them and to see if there is not a new beginning for us all in their meaning."

Dr Slabbert said he saw the possibility of a beginning on the road to fundamental reform in the president's speech. But the best talents had to be harnessed on that road, and the government had a poor track record when it came to cooperation.

"Too often it has tried to bluff, to go it alone, to prescribe take-it-or-leave-it solutions. I say to it now — you have made noises pleasing on the ear for those who fight for fundamental reform. If your deeds begin to match your words, you can be sure, even at this late stage, that there are more people than not in this country who would work with you on that road.

"But if your words, particularly now, remain words, then our children and theirs will curse you into posterity for wasting our country's precious resources at such a crucial stage in its history."

Viljoen on Black Issues

MB281923 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The department of cooperation, development, and education is investigating the possibility of creating black bodies similar to the sucsessful management committees which had been formed for Coloreds.

The minister of cooperation, development, and education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, made the announcement during the no confidence debate in the House of Assembly today. He said that black education would be given top priority. Referring to the resettlement of blacks, Dr Viljoen said that in future, resettlement would be restricted to the most urgent cases. He said that it would be accompanied by an improvement in the living standards of the communities involved. Dr Viljoen added that the announcement by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, on the future of blacks in South Africa had reflected the feelings of most members of the National Party.

He said that it was a distortion to say that blacks were excluded from constitutional development and reform.

Treurnicht Criticizes Botha Plans

MB281638 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1615 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] House of Assembly, Jan 28, SAPA — The death knell for white self-determination had been sounded by the state president's policy announcements on the constitutional future of non-homeland blacks, the leader of the Conservative Party [CP], Dr Andries Treurnicht, said today.

The new plans, announced by Mr P.W. Botha at the opening of the tricameral parliament last Friday, represented a fundamental deviation from the National Party's [NP] stated policy of separate development and NP members "might as well now be members of the anti-apartheid movement," Dr Treurnicht said during the no-confidence debate.

He moved as an amendment to the motion by the leader of the opposition, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert — that the house had no confidence in the cabinet because its policies were destroying the economy and the quality of life of all people in South Africa — that the house should express its lack of confidence in the cabinet because:

— "It finds itself irrevocably on the road of integration, now in respect of blacks as well;
— It is incapable of taking appropriate measures to rehabilitate the agricultural industry of South Africa;
— By its financial, monetary and fiscal policies it is placing South Africa on the road to bankruptcy;
— Of its failure to bring about efficient administration; and
— By its political policy it has left the white worker in the lurch."

"The outward forms of separate development and white self-determination are being maintained but these are actually being replaced by a policy of joint-decision making," Dr Treurnicht said.

The government was pursuing an ambivalent policy in terms of which black national states and their inhabitants could achieve independence while non-homeland blacks could have permanent residential rights and a political say in white South Africa.

"The blacks are being divided so that they can rule — in the national states and now through gaining a part in decision making in the RSA," the CP leader said.

This was a denial of pleas by black leaders for non-division of their nations and marked the end of the policy whereby blacks outside the national states were to express themselves politically only in their own states. "This is a victory now already, right at the start of the new dispensation, for Rev Allan Hendrikse (leader of the Labour Party in the House of Representatives) and Mr (Amichand) Rajbansi (leader of the majority party in the House of Delegates) who want a unitary state in South Africa."

Dr Treurnicht asked where the state president found a mandate in the referendum or the new constitution to make "far-reaching" changes to permit blacks to participate in joint-decision making "at the highest level".

He asked whether, in terms of the government's policy of consociation and segmental autonomy, the blacks outside the national states were to be viewed as a single segment or whether each ethnic group, such as the Zulus, would constitute a single entity.

The CP leader also asked how the blacks who exercised political rights in the RSA would be accommodated within the principle of proportionality and in terms of the veto right, and whether they would have a say in electing the state president or the president's council.

The Progressive Federal Party had become irrelevant because the NP had taken over PFP policy, Dr Treurnicht said, concluding that there was large group of white nationalist conservatives who would not permit their death knell to be sounded and who would ensure that there would be proper self-determination for all the separate population groups in the country.

NRP Head: PFP 'Sold Out'

MB281715 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1608 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] House of Assembly, Jan 28, SAPA — The Progressive Federal Party [PFP] had "sold out to the far left", the leader of the New Republic Party [NRP], Mr Vause Raw, said in the no-confidence debate here this afternoon.

"That party has sold out to those who reject evolutionary progress; it has sold out on the defence and security of South Africa, and it has rejected national service," he said.

PFP supporters would have to determine how they fitted in with the three political groupings that had come into being in South Africa.

These consisted of those who believed in co-existence of groups with joint responsibility; those who believed in non-racial majority rule not based on any political rights for groups; and those who believed in white domination over "some dreamland segment of South Africa, totally partitioned".

The philosophy of the NRP encompassed the recognition of groups and the sharing of responsibility, said Mr Raw.

The black debate in the House was effectively over. The state president, in his opening address last Friday, had established certain fundamental principles including the permanence of black people in South Africa, freehold, and participation in decision-making "to the highest level".

What had to be done now was to establish the method by which the principles could be realised.

"This will be done around the negotiating table," he said, "not by this House telling blacks what it will give them.

"What we should be looking to now, the real debate, is how to sell the acceptability of this new dispensation."

Curry Says Coloreds To Sit in White Chamber

MB281821 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1708 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] House of Representatives, Jan 28, SAPA — Coloureds will eventually sit in the white chamber of parliament, the minister of local government, housing and agriculture, Mr David Curry said today.

Speaking during the no-confidence debate, Mr Curry said the Labour Party had learnt much about politics during its 20 years of existence.

"In the very house in which we are now sitting, the decision was taken to remove our voting rights. But now we are back in Parliament Street and the day will come when we will sit in the white chamber," he said.

During his speech, Mr Curry proposed an amendment to the leader of the opposition's motion expressing no confidence in the cabinet and the ministers council.

Mr Curry moved that it should read: The House of Representatives welcomes the reform initiatives of the cabinet and requests that they be accelerated and insists on the repeal of discriminatory laws, regulations and arguments which deny the predominant right of the individual.

Mr Curry added that the government should not think that they came to the house to "decorate the furniture".

"We know how to play politics. We closed down the Coloured Representative Council and we closed down the South African Indian Council.

"We have also split the National Party because it was the coloured issue which caused division in the party."

He said the Labour Party had learnt its lesson in politics and was not going to make the same error that was made in 1948 when the National Party came to power.

"We had the vote on a non-racial basis but many people believed it would be better not to vote and advocated a boycott of the 1948 elections.

"We had the choice again, either to boycott or to participate. We do not support the new constitution, but we have chosen to negotiate with the government of the day. We are aiming to dismantle apartheid, not to entrench it.

"The fight must go inside — into local government, the cabinet and the halls of power. We have chosen this path and nobody will dictate to this party what steps it must take to achieve its goal.

"We have been accused of selling people down the river but what we have done is brought people nearer to the seat of power and into the decision-making process.

"We fought for equal pay and the government has now accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work."

Mr Curry said his party would use the platform given to them to press the government to further reforms and they would continue until all racial laws went.

Indian Opposition No Confidence Motion

MB251012 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0940 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] House of Delegates, Jan 25, SAPA — The Indian House of Delegates and its Council of Ministers were neither competent nor possessed the necessary courage to procure a just society in South Africa, Dr Jayaram "JN" Reddy, leader of the opposition in House of Delegates, said today.

Giving notice proposing a vote of no confidence in the Indian Council of Ministers and President Botha's national cabinet to satisfactorily govern South Africa's Indian population, Dr Reddy called on them to resign. The motion will be debated on Monday.

Listing several issues which his party proposed to deal with, he accused members of the Council of Ministers of "gross misadministration" in the past months of their "own affairs," matters under their control.

He said the greatest defect was the government's failure to provide meaningful political rights for blacks at central legislative level or any clear declaration of intent to provide such rights in an acceptable form.

4 New House of Assembly Members Sworn In

MB251005 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0828 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] House of Assembly, Jan 25, SAPA — Four new members of the House of Assembly were sworn in this morning when MPs assembled in the house before the formal opening of the second session of the eighth parliament. The new members are Mr Hernus Kriel (NP Parow), Mr Hennie Smit (NP George), Dr Piet Welgemoed (NP Primrose) and Mr Fanus Schoeman (NP elected by members).

Mr Kriel was elected to fill the seat vacated by Mr Pen Kotze when he joined the President's Council. Dr Welgemoed resigned his seat as an MP elected by members to successfully contest the Primrose seat vacated by Dr Piet Koornhof, the former minister of cooperation and development, who is now chairman of the President's Council. Mr Schoeman was elected in Dr Welgemoeds place, while Mr Smit fills the seat left vacant by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha.

Also sworn in today were two memebrs not present at last year's official opening of the tricameral parliament. Dr Nak van Der Merwe, the minister of health and welfare, and Mr Theo Arenson, NP (elected by members), took the oath.

Proceedings were then suspended while the formal opening ceremony took place prior to a joint sitting of the three houses to hear the state president's opening address.

ZAMBIA

Bulgaria's Filipov Meets With Prime Minister Mundia

MB281153 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has said that Zambia does not accept the policy of constructive engagement because it has brought about more chaos in southern Africa without achieving anything towards the Namibian issue.

Mr Mundia said that, at the same time, Zambia does not accept the stand taken by the United States of America and its allies on the linkage of Cuban troops' withdrawal from Angola without Namibia independence. [sentence as heard]

The prime minister was speaking today at the start of official talks between a Zambian team and the visiting Bulgarian prime minister, Grisha Filipov, and his delegation. He said that the Zambian side was looking forward to the discussions with their Bulgarian counterparts and hoped to be briefed on the situation in Europe as regards the arms reduction talks.

Mr Mundia thanked Bulgaria for its stand on colonialism and for assistance rendered to the freedom fighters in Namibia and South Africa.

In reply, Mr Filipov said the international community should unite to avert a break-out of the third world war, which would be a nuclear one, and would not leave out anyone.

Holds Talks With Mulemba

MB281840 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba said in Lusaka today that Zambia is happy to note that several Western states are beginning to realize the importance of implementing UN Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence.

During a meeting with visiting Bulgarian Prime Minister Grisha Filipov, he urged the Eastern bloc countries to reassess their support to the liberation struggle in southern Africa with a view to working out a coordinated plan of action aimed at speeding up Namibia's independence.

The party chief denounced the linkage of Namibia's decolonization to the presence of a Cuban contingent in neighboring Angola, saying it was a plot to further delay the territory's self-determination. He called for a tougher approach to South Africa's apartheid policy by all progressive states of the world.

In reply, Mr Filipov pledged Bulgaria's unwavering support for Zambia's foreign policy, which stood for the liberation of all people still under oppression the world over. He underlined the strong bonds of bilateral ties between the two friendly nations.

ZIMBABWE

Minister Says Dissidents Change Tactics

MB281706 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Dissidents operating in Matebeleland have changed their tactics. The minister of mines and ZANU-PF chairman for Matebeleland North, Comrade Callistus Ndlovu, told ZIANA today that the dissidents now avoid confrontation with the Army and have gone underground to assume the role of political commissars.

He said the results of this change were seen in the recent district council elections in which ZAPU won all seats. Comrade Ndlovu said dissidents had threatened peasants that any people who vote for ZANU-PF would be identified and killed, adding that some people who would have voted for the ruling party decided not to cast their votes for fear of reprisals. He said there is a need to tighten security in the affected areas. He said the forthcoming general elections will not be a sham but free and fair.

Comrade Ndlovu also warned that dissidents are going to intensify their efforts to prevent people from joining or voting for ZANU-PF as the election draws closer, and this will mean an increase in political strong-arm tactics and selective assassinations of ZANU-PF officials.

Further on Ndlovu's Remarks

MB281427 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1354 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Harare, Jan 28, SAPA — Dissidents operating in Matabeleland had changed tactics and gone underground, the minister of mines, Mr Callistus Ndlovu, said in Harare today.

In an interview with the semi-official news agency ZIANA, Mr Ndhlovu, who is also the ZANU-PF chairman for Matabeleland North, said dissidents were now avoiding confrontation with the army and had assumed the role of political commissars.

The success of their new strategy could be seen from results of recent district council elections, in which ZAPU practically swept the board.

ZANU-PF did not recognise the councillors as representatives of the people, however, as no more than 30 voters had turned out at any polling station, Mr Ndlovu said.

Results of the poll had not startled ZANU-PF, and they would be accepted "for now." ZANU-PF would "look into how to handle this in future", he said.

Mr Ndlovu said security in the area would have to be stepped up so the forthcoming elections would not be a "sham".

Though there were already some militia units in the area, "fully politicised" units of local residents should be established.